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Palestinian Affairs

Hamas Issues Denial of Kidnapping Allegations

JN3107175995 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1653 GMT 31 Jul 95

[Statement issued by Hamas; date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] Our militant people, while your militant movement, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas pursues its intensive contacts and efforts to have the U.S. Administration immediately release struggler Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, the Zionist enemy, as is its custom, does not hesitate to distort the Hamas Movement's stands through its poisoned media campaign against it.

In this respect, the Zionist enemy radio transmitted a report that Hamas Movement elements have kidnapped two U.S. nationals in the Gaza Strip and threatened to kill them if Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq is not released.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas categorically denies these insidious Zionist claims and affirms that they are part of the Zionist enemy's persistent efforts to undermine the Hamas Movement's credibility and defame its jihad which is restricted to operations within the framework of resisting the Zionist occupation.

The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, closely follows up these overt Zionist attempts to defame the movement and calls on all its cadres to exercise self-restraint and not to be dragged into practices our criminal enemy will exploit. The Hamas movement pledges to our people and nation to remain loyal to the march of Jihad and martyrdom until the land and the holy places are liberated [Signed] The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas

Hamas Cautions U.S. Against Extraditing Abu-Marzuq

MM3107161795 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Report by Jamal Khashuqji: "Hamas Warns Washington Against Extraditing Abu-Marzuq"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London — The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) yesterday warned the United States against extraditing to Israel Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, its Political Bureau's chairman who has been detained in New York since last Tuesday. [passage omitted]

Hamas Spokesman Engineer Ibrahim Ghawshah has stated that the arrest of the movement's Political Bureau chairman "was strange and deplorable particularly as Dr. Abu-Marzuq has an American residence (green) card and his entry into the United States was perfectly legal." In a telephone statement to AL-HAYAH, he said that "this American step could only be interpreted as an additional move by the U.S. Administration to please the Zionist enemy and the Zionist lobby in the United States." Ghawshah said it was unlikely that the U.S. Administration would hand Dr. Abu-Marzuq over to the Israeli authorities. Such a step, he said, would "be foolish and would even be a crime." He added that "Dr. Abu-Marzuq is a well-known figure who carries weight and is highly regarded by the Palestinian people and the Arab and Islamic nations." He said that this "serious step puts the U.S. Administration directly in the Zionist trench" and will infuriate the Muslims everywhere and make them condemn that rash measure.

On Hamas' reaction to the arrest of its political leader and the possibility of his extradition to the Israeli authorities, Ghawshah said that "the movement has indeed acting swiftly on more than one level. Some U.S. lawyers have been assigned to defend Dr. Musa, the necessary informational efforts have been made, and contacts have been made with all the Islamic, national, and popular forces to condemn that step and request the immediate release of Abu-Marzuq. The movement will also act politically to ensure his release."

Asked if Hamas expected Abu-Marzuq's detention to mark the beginning of a real U.S. war against Hamas, Ghawshah said: "Actually, the United States started a war against Hamas over two years ago when it instigated many regimes and organizations to stop aid for Hamas and deny its leaders refuge, which is what did happen through increased pressure on the Arab and Islamic states. In the case of the states which do not come under the direct influence of the United States, it urged a third party to play that role. The expulsion of brothers Musa Abu-Marzuq and 'Imad al-'Alami from Jordan was a vivid example of the role played by the United States against Hamas. The U.S. Government is now also harassing those in the United States who sympathize with the resistance movement in Palestine and is preparing laws that would tighten the noose around their necks on charges of extremism and terrorism to please the Zionist darling."

Hamas Says Anti-Israeli Operations Will Continue

TA2807134995 Gaza AL-WATAN in Arabic 27 Jul 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Who Is the Killer and Who Is the Victim?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] As is the case after every military operation, turmoil increases, the voices of condemnation and denunciation grow louder, and promises are made to combat terrorism, continue the peace process, and end the cycle of violence. These are the tunes that the Palestinian people hear, as if such operations were new and unprecedented. The more important question, however, that crops up in the minds of statesmen, politicians, and negotiators is: Who is the killer and who is the victim in everything that is happening? True, six Israelis were killed in one military operation, but is it not true that the entire Palestinian people is being subjected to death every day, though not necessarily by being shot at, dying under investigation and torture, or having their bodies blown up by rockets. But is not the expropriation of land and its detachment from the Palestinian body a murder of Palestinians? Is not controlling the destiny of a people and its borders, security, sovereignty, and sanctities a murder of those people? As for the refugees who are tasting the bitterness of exile and dispossession, is that not murder in the true sense of the word? Is preventing us from reaching our capital not tantamount to killing us?

A bullet kills, but murder might take other forms that are harsher and more violent, and this is what Israel is doing in all parts of Palestine, even in the Palestinian Authority's areas.

Throughout their lives the Jews have been weeping and complaining that "they are victims of terrorism." They have forgotten that the number of the Palestinian people's victims killed by Jews is hundreds of times greater than that of their own "victims."

Those who claim that such operations hinder the political process should review Israel's record and policies of procrastination, confiscation of lands, Judaization of Jerusalem, and siege of Hebron. Are these not an obstacle to peace, if there is peace at all?

Israel is dictating that Palestinian people live all their lives in subjugation, misery, persecution, and humiliation. Then it asks them "to combat terrorism" and support the peace process, by which it has only created "a beggar" who extends his hands to the donor countries, fragmented and divided entities, jails filled with prisoners, and settlements that choke us.

We state the truth candidly: The killer who is killing our people daily does not have the right at all to weep over a small number of people, and he who seeks peace for himself only should not forget that there is a steadfast and strong people who will not give up its national and historic rights on its land and sanctities and that the conflict will continue as long as our problem is not solved in a just and honorable way.

Groups Place 'All Capabilities' at Hamas Disposal

JN3107125795 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic
31 Jul 95 pp 1, 11

[FBIS Translated Text] AL-MAJD has learned that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] has declared a state of emergency, mobilized all its political and military resources, and kept its leadership in open session in order to follow up developments related to the arrest of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq, head of its Political Bureau, on his arrival at Kennedy Airport in New York last Tuesday.

AL-MAJD emphasizes that the Hamas leadership is waging political and media campaigns on the domestic, Arab, Islamic, and international levels to ensure the release of Abu-Marzuq, or at least to prevent his extradition to the Israeli enemy authorities.

Hamas has appointed two of the most prominent U.S. lawyers to defend Abu-Marzuq, who holds a "green card," which gives him the right to permanent residence in the United States. Hamas representatives in various Arab and Islamic countries have asked the governments of these countries to put pressure on the U.S. Administration to force it to release Abu-Marzuq who showed readiness to relinquish the green card and leave the United States.

AL-MAJD has learned that the Hamas leadership turned down an offer from Yasir 'Arafat, conveyed by Abu-Marzuq's brother who is commander of the Civil Defense in Gaza, expressing readiness to intervene with the U.S. Administration to release Abu-Marzuq providing he receives an official Hamas request to do so.

Hamas also refrained from contacting the Jordanian Government, which deported Abu-Marzuq and 'Imad al-'Alami from Jordan recently, however, House of Representatives member Hamzah Mansur contacted Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-Kabariti in the name of the Islamic Action Front, and al-Kabariti promised to intervene and do all he can.

The Hamas leadership addressed a message to President Clinton through the U.S. Embassies in Amman and London, calling on him to release Abu-Marzuq, holding him responsible for the consequences of extraditing him to Israel, and warning that it will deal with developments in an appropriate manner. It expressed hope that the U.S. Administration will behave rationally and avoid becoming involved in direct conflict with the Palestinian people and Muslims all over the world.

Responding to a question by AL-MAJD, a Hamas leadership source said that Islamic movements all over the world did not wait to be contacted before condemning Abu-Marzuq's arrest, but acted spontaneously in issuing statements and warnings. They said they would not be satisfied with statements but would stage marches and sit-ins outside U.S. embassies if Abu-Marzuq's detention continues.

The source added that leaders of the Islamic Jihad, the Lebanese Hizballah, and other Islamic movements contacted Hamas and placed all their capabilities at its disposal. The 10 opposition Palestinian factions denounced the arrest and expressed full readiness to become involved in the battle through all means, and alongside Hamas.

In a press statement, the 10 factions warned the U.S. Administration of the dangers that would result from extraditing Abu-Marzuq, while the Islamic Jihad issued a detailed statement of great significance, in which it said that the extradition of Abu-Marzuq will be a U.S. step to shift the battle outside Palestine.

AL-MAJD has learned that the Hamas leadership issued an internal circular asking all its cadres and elements to show self-restraint, fully abide by the leadership's instructions, and avoid any rashness. This circular was issued against the backdrop of the anger and discontent among the movement's youth and strugglers who are impatiently awaiting the moment of collision with the U.S. enemy and for striking at U.S. interests wherever they might be, and not only in Palestine.

Hamas circles do not hide the belief that there is a U.S.-Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli design to strike at, and dismantle the movement. These circles are currently discussing the possible developments of the the Abu-Marzuq case, such as the possible stripping him of his green card and expelling him from the United States, and the possibility of trying him and putting him in jail as happened with Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman, or the most difficult possibility, which is less likely, that is extraditing him to Israel and detaining him as was the case with [Hamas leaders] Shaykh Ahmad Yasin and 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Rantisi.

According to information available to Hamas, the U.S. Administration is divided regarding Abu-Marzuq's fate. A minority wants to extradite him to Israel to be an elections card in the interest of Clinton and Rabin, in addition to obtaining security information from him on the Hamas leadership structure abroad. The majority holds a totally opposite view and prefers not to directly collide with Hamas and other radical Islamic movements, which may harm U.S. interests and subsequently shake Clinton's image and weaken his popularity before the delicate elections stage.

AL-MAJD has received a series of statements condemning this disgraceful U.S. action from the Lebanese Hizballah, the Muslim Brotherhood in Jordan and Egypt, the Pan-Arab Action Front, the Islamic Action Front, the unified leadership of Hashd [Jordanian People's Democratic Party] and the Popular Unity Party in Jordan, the Damascus-Based Alliance of 10 Palestinian Factions, and the Palestinian Grouping led by Bassam al-Shak'ah in Nabulus.

'Palestine's Islamic Sialvation Front' Formed

LD3007122695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in English 1130 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Palestine's Islamic Salvation Front has announced its formation.

Palestine's Islamic Salvation Front in a statement yesterday in the Gaza Strip promised to counter the corruption of [illegible]'s self-rule organizations, whose aim is to destroy the Palestinian nation. The front has accused 'Arafat of selling out the land of Palestine to the Zionists.

According to REUTERS, Palestine's Islamic Salvation Front has in the statement voiced its support for the Muslim nation of Palestine, Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] movement, and the Islamic Jihad.

'Arafat Views Ties With Arabs, Peace Talks

NC3107195995 Beirut AL-NAHAR in Arabic 28 Jul 95 pp 1, 16

[Interview with PA President Yasir 'Arafat by Bisharah Ghanim al-Bun in Paris on 26 July]

[FBIS Translated Text] [al-Bun] The Lebanese Government has openly accused the Palestinian leadership abroad of ordering the Palestinians in Lebanon, particularly in Sidon, to participate actively in the recent workers' strike and demonstrations. What is your reply to this accusation?

['Arafat] First, one obvious fact has to be explained. It is said that I use a communications set to send instructions. I do not use this means to communicate with Lebanon and there is no such an equipment linking me and Lebanon, though I am in constant touch with my Palestinian brothers. It was also said that I am sitting in Gaza and inciting the workers in Tripoli, Beirut, al-Biqa', Sidon, and Tyre. No one believes such a thing.

[Al-Bun] Then in your view, what is the reason for raising this issue and for focusing the spotlight again on the Palestinian role in Lebanon?

['Arafat] Because they wanted to hold someone else responsible, and they found no one else but the Palestinians.

[Al-Bun] Does this issue have a specific significance connected with the so-called danger of settling the Palestinians in Lebanon?

['Arafat] It is known that there is absolutely no settlement going on. There are two sides to the refugee issue. The first concerns the displaced refugees [from the 1967 war], and this is being discussed by the quadripartite Jordanian-Egyptian-Palestinian-Israeli committee. The other side concerns the old refugees [of 1948], those whose cases are like mine. This will be discussed not later than the start of the third year (according to the agreement).

Therefore the settlement issue is baseless. The Palestinians have only one homeland, Palestine, whether they are the refugees of 1967, who are called displaced persons, or the old refugees whose case will be discussed at the start of the third year according to the official agreement. Now they are referring to a new bogey, namely that of employment for the Palestinians. Where is this settlement? Has anyone spoken of it? Is there a single Palestinian who will accept such talk?

[Al-Bun] But there is a real fear among the Lebanese and a real worry among the Palestinians in Lebanon. What is Yasir 'Arafat's message to both sides on this vital issue?

['Arafat] I tell the Palestinians: The Palestinians' homeland is Palestine. We have fought so that we can all return to our homeland. As proof of this, a large number of our military and civilian brothers in Lebanon have returned so far. There are many famous Palestinians known to my brothers who have returned to the homeland. As for the Lebanese, there is no cause for fear because the Palestinian problem will be solved at the start of the third year.

[Al-Bun] How do you explain the fact that a large number of Palestinians are buying land and houses in Lebanon and the reports that large tracts of land have been bought in south Lebanon for the construction of Palestinian urban centers there?

['Arafat] By God, I want to tell you one thing only. How much land did we buy in Beirut? How many places did I buy in Tripoli; where did I build houses? In whose names did I record the title deeds? I recorded them proudly in the name of the Lebanese awqaf [Islamic endowment organization]. Go and ask about the land I bought in the north. I recorded the title deeds in the name of the Lebanese awqaf. Therefore this talk is baseless. If a Palestinian has bought an apartment or shop, then he is acting just like the Lebanese who buys an apartment in Senegal, Argentina, or the United States. Does this Lebanese person forget his Lebanese identity? Is this settlement?

"Abu-'Ammar" pointed at this time to the director general of the National Palestinian Fund who was in the room and said: "We can give you documents proving that the property deeds were recorded in the name of the awqaf."

[Al-Bun] It is noted that there is almost a complete absence of contact between you and the Lebanese authorities since your departure from Beirut. Why don't you explain your real stands and reach an understanding with the Lebanese state?

['Arafat] I have used every occasion to send messages to the president and the prime minister. I have not severed this connection, because this is my duty. I will not forget the favors Lebanon has done for the Palestinians. Lebanon is paying the Palestinian invoice to this day and we will never forget this.

[Al-Bun] When will Yasir 'Arafat return to Beirut?

['Arafat] I will come as a visitor. God willing, I will go to Lebanon if I receive an invitation.

[Al-Bun] What is the status of the talks on the Syrian-Israeli track?

['Arafat] They have made progress; not great progress, but initial progress. The meeting between the two chiefs of staff was important. We hope there will be progress on the Lebanese and Syrian tracks because we do not consider peace to be comprehensive, permanent, and just unless it covers all Arab parties and tracks. By this I mean the Lebanese, Syrian, Jordanian, and Palestinian tracks.

[Al-Bun] How can this progress be linked to the Israeli election date?

['Arafat] Undoubtedly, we must take into consideration the one-upmanship among the Israeli parties. Everything, big or small, can be used in this electoral battle.

[Al-Bun] Why did you raise the issue of the Palestinian territory in the Syrian Golan at this particular time?

['Arafat] A journalist asked me a question, nothing more, nothing less. He asked me: What about the Palestinian land in the Golan? I told him: This land, al-Himmah, was offered to Ahmad al- Shuqayri. I am just repeating what the Syrian brothers offered at Arab Summit Conference in Alexandria. They told al-Shuqayri: Come take al-Himmah, which is Palestinian land, and establish a center for yourselves there.

[Al-Bun] What is the status of Syrian-Palestinian relations?

['Arafat] My brother Abu-al-Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi] was in Syria a few days ago, together with two other brothers from the Central Committee—brother 'Abbas Zaki and brother Muhammad Jallan.

[Al-Bun] Will Abu-'Ammar ['Arafat] visit Damascus soon?

['Arafat] If there is a chance, I will not miss it.

[Al-Bun] Several questions arose regarding Damascus' current behavior. At a time when it is holding talks with Israel, it is also hosting all the rejectionist forces that oppose the peace process. How, in your view, can Damascus combine this contradiction or duplicity?

['Arafat] This is not the opposition. The opposition exists everywhere. Is there not opposition in Jordan? The Hamas leadership is located in Jordan. Palestinian organizations exist throughout the whole Arab region, not just in Syria.

[Al-Bun] How do you evaluate the influence of the Iranian factor in the Middle East equation?

['Arafat] I want to tell them I hope their intervention is in the interest of the people of this region, its future, and its territory, which is still occupied. I hope this intervention is for the restoration of these rights and lands, be they Palestinian, Lebanese, or Syrian.

[Al-Bun] Can we take it from your words that their intervention is having a negative effect on the peace negotiations?

['Arafat] The international changes must be taken into consideration. I believe the Iranians now know the significance of the international changes currently taking place.

[Al-Bun] What is the nature of your relations with Tehran?

['Arafat] We still have an embassy there.

[Al-Bun] But the warmth in relations between you has considerably faded?

['Arafat] But the Iranians must not forget what the Palestinian revolution has done for the Iranian revolution.

[Al-Bun] How do you assess the current U.S. role and its tempo in the regional negotiations?

['Arafat] Nobody must forget that the Americans are the only power. Before, there were two superpowers, but now there is only one single power, America.

[Al-Bun] Does that mean that there is more of a chance with President Bill Clinton than with any other president?

['Arafat] I cannot forget that the Oslo Agreement was signed under the auspices of President Clinton at the White House. The second part of the agreement was signed in Cairo under the auspices of President Mubarak. In both Washington or in Cairo, the signing was in the presence of the American and Russian cosponsors of the peace conference.

[Al-Bun] Will Rome or Paris, after Oslo, be the turning point regarding the new Palestinian-Israeli agreement?

['Arafat] No. We insist that the venue of the negotiations be somewhere near us so that we can easily consult with our negotiating team.

[Al-Bun] After this experience with the Israelis, how does Yasir 'Arafat evaluate the personal dealings with the Israeli side?

['Arafat] The Israelis have a major concern, which they call the security concern. To them, everything is related to this security concern. They link everything—water, agriculture, sacred sites, land, the environment—to security. God be with us!

[Al-Bun] But can the chairman of the Palestinian Authority [PA] relieve this concern at a time when operations are being carried out against them inside the occupied territories?

['Arafat] The only thing that can assure them is a lasting and comprehensive peace in the region. After the collapse of the Soviet Union, it has been proved that power is not everything.

[Al-Bun] But it seems that water is a very vital and fundamental concern for the Israelis. Some fear that this element may be the cause of a conflict or even a war in the region. It is also one of the main obstacles preventing an agreement between you.

['Arafat] A solution must be found for this problem, like all other outstanding problems.

[Al-Bun] You mean to share the water, but on what basis?

['Arafat] We have the Johnston plan, which is internationally accepted. (Reference to a plan prepared by American Engineer Eric Johnston following a study he made between 1953 and 1955 regarding the distribution of the Jordan River water).

Israeli Decision To Evacuate Settlers Commended

JN3107193295 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli occupation forces this evening continued to evacuate the settlers from the hill of (Umm Humaydayn) near the village of al-Khidr. Earlier, the settlers tried to seize this hill and stay on it by force.

According to eyewitnesses, the occupation troops are now moving the settlers from the hill in buses despite their resistance to the evacuation.

Marwan Kanafani, adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, has described the Israeli Government's decision to expel the settlers from Palestinian lands they tried to seize in al-Khidr as a positive step which will contribute to the creation of a positive atmosphere to promote the peace process.

Regarding the Israeli settlements in the West Bank, Kanafani said they will be discussed in the negotiations for a final solution.

Settlers Confront al-Husayni in Jerusalem

JN3107205795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Armed settlers have tried to attack Faysal al-Husayni, official in charge of the Jerusalem file in the National Authority, while visiting the Arab Childeren's Home near the Orient House in occupied Jerusalem. Details are in the following dialogue between al-Husayni and correspondent Fathi Barqawi:

[Begin recording] [Barqawi] Mr. Faysal al-Husayni, hello.

[Al-Husayni] Hello. You are welcome.

[Barqawi] Things went too far today; you personally were attacked despite the presence of Israeli police forces. Is not there anything that can end the provocations made by the settlers?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, matters have gone beyond this. I left the Orient House for the Arab Children's Home to meet with some relatives there. The settlers near the school [as heard] tried to attack me. Naturally, the settlers take advantage of their presence there and obstruct all movements in the area.

I find it strange that the Israeli police and the Jerusalem municipality, which claims that it maintains order in the city, are permitting such a presence. I can say that this presence was actually a barbaric presence today. It is not the first time this has happened.

[Barqawi] Your movements have thus been jeopardized.

[Al-Husayni] Sir, danger is always present under occupation. However, we should not allow them to limit our movements.

[Barqawi] Mr. al-Husayni: Do such flagrant attacks not affect the peace process and the ongoing negotiations in Elat between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations?

[Al-Husayni] They are definitely affected. The general atmosphere is also affected. During my presence at the Orient House today, the settlers sent nine cars to the periphery of the house, made provocations, and fired bullets for the third time around my house.

In fact, if these moves continue in this way and if the Israeli Government does not stop these provocations in the center of Jerusalem or prevent the settlers from encroaching on the property of the Jerusalem inhabitants, I believe the entire negotiating process will be undermined.

What is taking place in Jerusalem does not have anything to do with peace. Israel's insistence on allowing such barbarians to carry arms and attack others and even allowing them to express their backward racist thinking will ultimately lead to bloodbaths in this city.

[Barqawi] You will meet with the consuls of foreign states at the Orient House. Is there not any international pressure on the Israeli Government?

[Al-Husayni] In fact, we notified other states on this issue. It seems that we need to carry out an intensive activity again.

[Barqawi] It seems to me that we, as Palestinians, have to daily confront such attacks.

[Al-Husayni] Yes. We should confront them and show defiance by continuing our movements. We should not allow their savage measures to limit our movements.

[Barqawi] Thank you. [end recording]

Dahlan, Yusuf on Ramat Gan Bombing Probe

TA2807181895 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 28 Jul 95 pp 12, 13

[Report on interview with Muhammad Dahlan, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service in Gaza, and General Nasr Yusuf, commander of the Palestinian National Security Forces, by correspondent 'Oded Granot; place and date not given]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ramat Gan bombing caught Muhammad Dahlan, head of the Palestinian Preventive Security Service [PPSS] in the Gaza Strip, in the lobby of the Lot Hotel near the Dead Sea. The talks with the

Israelis were about to start at any minute, but Dahlan dropped everything and raced like a mad man back to Gaza.

"Each time there is a terrorist attack against Israelis we have instructions from 'Arafat to set out in pursuit of the planners of the operation and try to catch all the accomplices," Dahlan reveals in a special interview with MA'ARIV, "but this time it worked more effectively than before. All Palestinian security apparatuses joined a vast search operation. We left no stone unturned. Not one suspected place was left unsearched, and there was no suspect that was not summoned for questioning to police or PPSS headquarters. When the investigations were over, however, we felt we were still groping in the dark."

When Dahlan speaks about the Palestinian security apparatuses he is referring, among others, to military intelligence headed by Musa 'Arafat, the Palestinian "Mosad" headed by Amin al-Hindi, and of course, the Palestinian National Security Forces under the command of General Nasr Yusuf. Dahlan runs a tentacular security "octopus" to keep the balance among all the forces, which this time were ordered to spare no effort to arrest those responsible for the bus bombing, which prompted a sharp denunciation by 'Arafat.

Naturally, suspicion fell on the 'Izz-al-Din al-Qassam battalions, the military arm of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. "Everybody knows that Hamas is opposed to the peace process," says Dahlan, "and the general feeling is that Hamas was the perpetrator because it uses murderous and violent methods to express its views. However, our main problem is that we cannot go by assumptions and we need solid information unequivocally pointing to the identity of the perpetrators. We have not yet obtained such information."

Dahlan says this is the first time that searches have been launched without a lead. "On previous occasions we always knew the identity of the organization that perpetrated the attack, even if it did not rush to assume responsibility for it." He cites the example of the truck bomb in Tel Sheba': "A few hours after the truck driver was arrested we had already captured the planners of the operation."

However, after the Ramat Gan bombing they did not have an inkling. "We conducted a thorough investigation, but until Wednesday night [26 July] we could not name with certainty any of the Islamic opposition groups operating in the autonomy areas as being the perpetrator. All the suspects, whose names we obtained from various sources, including the Israeli media, were meticulously checked. Some of them turned out to have departed abroad before the bombing, while others were in the autonomy areas but were not at all connected to the Ramat Gan bombing." He cites the al-Najar family in Khan Yunus, who reported that their son had been missing from home for several days. "The al-Najar family has nothing to do with the bus bombing," Dahlan says with full confidence.

The publication of the suicide terrorist's photograph in the Israeli press did not help solve the mystery. "The picture was clear; there were fingerprints. In Gaza, everybody knows everybody else. Usually we do not need identity cards." Nevertheless, the PPSS is having a hard time identifying the man. "So far, all the checks we conducted in the areas controlled by the Palestinian Authority [PA], have failed to reveal who the man in the picture is," says Dahlan. The head of the PPSS is talking about the autonomy area. Suspects in the West Bank are a different story.

Gen. Nasr Yusuf, the commander of the Palestinian National Security Forces, also believes that the suicide bomber did not come from Gaza. "Hamas wants to embarrass the PA," he says. "Had the perpetrator come from the autonomy areas they would have gladly announced it." But, Yusuf, too, is not prepared to commit himself to anything until the investigation has been completed.

Among themselves, Palestinian security officials wonder how an Arab terrorist did not arouse the suspicion of an Israeli bus driver. "The picture in the paper shows a man of Middle Eastern features, but not necessarily an Arab," says a Palestinian involved in the investigation.

There are a few other facts that Palestinian security officials say do not yet square with the usual pattern of suicide operations by Hamas and Islamic Jihad, such as the small quantity of explosives used in the pipe bomb, as opposed to the bombs used in Tel Aviv's Dizengoff Street and in Hadera, as well as "the bizarre choice" by the planners of the Dan Company bus route No. 20 which "is known to be a route used mainly by elderly people, whereas they want to hurt young people."

Based on a vague feeling, but without any certainty that Hamas was the perpetrator, the Palestinian security forces stepped up the arrests of Hamas activists in Gaza after the bombing. Two Hamas leaders in the Gaza Strip, Shaykh Mahmud al-Zahhar and Ahmad Bahr, have been held in Gaza Prison for some time. Israeli officials regard the prolonged arrest of the two, as well as the shaving of their beards by order of the head of one of the Palestinian security branches, as a clear indication of the PA's firmer policy toward the Islamic opposition groups. However, even this was not enough to prevent the bombing in Ramat Gan.

Yusuf says that the arrests of Hamas and Islamic Jihad leaders conducted by the PA in recent months directly contributed to the drop in the number of attacks by the two organizations in Israel. "We are monitoring extremists and cracking down on them. Also, we have arrested many of them."

[Granot] But some of them have already been released.

[Yusuf] We have not released any Hamas members. All of them are still in jail.

[Granot] And what about collecting weapons in the Gaza Strip?

[Yusuf] We confiscate any unlicensed weapons we find. We have confiscated a lot of arms.

[Granot] But you did not search for weapons in houses.

[Yusuf] We have not yet reached that stage. [end Yusuf]

Palestinian security officials who have been cooperating with the Israeli security branches in a bid to find and capture the perpetrators of the Ramat Gan bombing were astonished to find out that they were not the only ones searching. "We conducted rigorous searches in the mosques. During the searches our men encountered Hamas activists who told them: We are also trying to find out who is responsible for the operation in Ramat Gan. We heard on the radio that Hamas is being held responsible, but we will not believe it until we find out for ourselves. Had it been somebody from Hamas we would have known already. We would have already found the bereaved family and the hut built to receive callers expressing their condolences." Islamic Jihad activists also swore that their movement had nothing to do with the bus bombing.

Dahlan claims that the fact that up until Wednesday Hamas did not claim responsibility for the attack gives rise to the possibility that it was not directly involved in the bloody incident. "All Hamas attacks to date were perpetrated for political purposes. It never happened before that an attack was conducted and they did not assume responsibility for it, since then they would not have made any political gains from it. Ultimately, all they want is to disrupt the peace process."

In the meantime, however, Dahlan refuses to absolve any of the opposition groups. "They are all suspects. We will continue to search, and ultimately we will find the culprits. It may take a few more days, but in the end we will get them."

According to Dahlan, another explanation for the fact that the radical Islamic organizations have not assumed responsibility for the Ramat Gan bombing is fear of "escalating the confrontation with the PA." Yusuf, on the other hand, says that the confrontation is already in its apogee and that "Hamas does not shy away from a fight." He claims that no understanding whatsoever was attained between the PA and Hamas to stop terrorist attacks in Israel, and that the drop in the number of attacks in recent months is a consequence of the preemptive measures taken by the PA along with "the declining popularity" of the Islamic opposition in the Palestinian street. "They simply felt that the people in the street were no longer thrilled about the violence," Gen. Yusuf says.

Yusuf takes advantage of this interview to send condolences to the families of the victims of the Ramat Gan bombing and to wish a speedy recovery to the wounded. "We denounce this regrettable and painful incident, and we are worried about the continuing cycle of blood. We will never give in to the blackmail attempts of terrorists and extremists, and we will never withdraw from the road of peace," Yusuf says, and promises "to make every possible effort to capture the planners of this murderous attack and bring them to trial."

[Granot] What will happen if it turns out that the suicide bomber came from Gaza or areas under the PA's control?

[Yusuf] That will be bad, very bad.

[Granot] What will you do?

[Yusuf] Our reaction will be harsh, tough, and adequate.

[Granot] What will be the fate of Yahya 'Ayyash, alias "The Engineer," who is responsible for planning terrorist attacks and who is rumored to be in Gaza?

[Yusuf] Such rumors have been making the rounds for a long time, but they are inaccurate. We have looked for him everywhere, but we have no proof that he is in the Gaza Strip.

[Granot] And if he is caught?

[Yusuf] There is no doubt that he will be interrogated. Based on to the results of the investigation, he will be brought to trial and scores will be settled with him.

[Granot] Many Israelis fear that after the Israeli army's withdrawal, cities in the West Bank will turn into safe havens for terrorists from which they will set out to perpetrate attacks in Israel.

[Yusuf] If we attain good and adequate agreements, this will not happen. [end Yusuf]

Both Yusuf and Dahlan are satisfied with the cooperation with the Israeli security forces in a bid to eliminate terrorism.

Dahlan: "There is an Israeli-Palestinian liaison committee which sees to the implementation of the agreements in the security sphere. There is cooperation between the PA and Israel to prevent terrorist attacks in your territory and attacks by settlers on Palestinians. All in all, there is a great deal of understanding between the sides where counterterrorism is concerned."

Gen. Yusuf: "There are meetings of military officers on all levels. There are joint patrols. Everybody is quite pleased because we share a common goal. I hope this cooperation will continue to improve and mutual trust will continue to grow."

Gen. Yusuf does not conceive of Hamas' being allowed to participate in the elections to the autonomy council without committing itself to renouncing all terrorist activities. "Democracy and extremism do not go hand in hand. That much is clear," he says. Dahlan praises "the wisdom of Prime Minister Rabin," who announced after the bombing that the negotiations would continue. "The man is very clever, because he realizes the needs of the Israeli people. I am sure that it is in the interests of both peoples to finalize the interim arrangement shortly and to block the Palestinian opposition groups that want to torpedo the peace process."

Dahlan also promises not to spare any effort to find the perpetrators of the Ramat Gan bombing and bring them to trial. "We are checking who entered the boundaries of the autonomy in recent months and are thoroughly checking all those who were in the past connected with the organizations opposed to the peace process. I am sure that we will find them, and I am sure that the peace process will end successfully for the benefit of all of us."

Russia 'Officially' Recognizes Passport

JN3107142795 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Russian Government has recognized the Palestinian passport issued by the Palestinian National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA].

Following a meeting with (Alex Maclov), Russian charge d'affairs in Tel Aviv, al-Tayyib 'Abd-al-Rahim, secretary general of the presidency, said that the Russian Government has officially recognized the Palestinian passport through an official letter addressed to the PA.

'Abd-al-Rahim said that the deputy director of the Middle East Desk in the Russian Foreign Ministry will arrive in Gaza in two weeks to present his credentials as Russia's envoy to the PA.

Arab-Israeli Talks

Self-Rule Expansion Talks Resume in Elat

JN3107151095 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1300 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on implementing the second stage of the Declaration of Principles agreement resumed this morning in Elat. Negotiations dealt with the redeployment of the Israeli occupation army in the West Bank, transfer of civil and security powers to the National Authority, and the conducting of legislative elections.

Ahmad Quray', alias Abu-'Ala', head of the Palestinian negotiating delegation, said: Talks could last for days or even weeks. It is up to the Israeli side to meet our demands to give up land and withdraw from the West Bank cities and villages.

Quray' on Progress Achieved

JN3107190495 Jericho Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Palestinian and Israeli delegations continued intensive negotiations near Elat today on implementing the second phase of the Declaration of Principles [DOP].

The two delegations were divided into four committees to discuss security arrangements, transfer of civil powers, redeployment of the occupation forces, and election of the members of the National Authority [Palestinian Authority, PA] Council.

Ahmad Quray', head of the Palestinian delegation to the peace negotiations on implementing the second phase of the DOP, said progress was achieved in the negotiations on redeployment of the Israeli forces in the West Bank, on the legislative elections, and on the water issue.

The Israeli Government is scheduled to hold an extraordinary meeting the day after tomorrow, Wednesday [2 August], to endorse the transfer of eight new civil functions to the PA. These are the local affairs, social security, agriculture, statistics, mail, industry, trade, and labor functions.

Algeria

FLN Declines Invitation to Election Talks

LD3107213295 Paris Radio France International in French 1830 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The National Liberation Front [FLN], one of the main Algerian opposition parties, has declined an invitation from President Zeroual to a dialogue on the presidential elections. Three former prime ministers, 12 leaders of the legal opposition, and the trade unions have been convened to hold discussions from 12 August about setting up a committee to oversee the elections and about the date of the elections.

EL ANSAR Coverage of Paris Bombing Reported

Event Reported 'Without Comment'

MM3107145995 London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 29 Jul 95 pp 1, 6

[Reports by Arlete Khuri in Paris and AL-HAYAH bureau in London: "The Paris Explosion: Islamic Group Mentions It Without Claiming Responsibility"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] AL-HAYAH obtained a copy yesterday of the EL ANSAR bulletin, which is close to the Armed [Islamic] Group [GIA]. The EL ANSAR bulletin published a report about the Paris explosion on its cover but without comment, saying the explosion occurred in the "capital of crusader France." It published the report about the explosion on one of its inner pages, without making any comment. [passage omitted]

GIA Said Responsible

MM3107144395 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 29 Jul 95 p 4

[Unattributed report: "Algerian Armed Group Carried Out the Paris Explosion"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT; Paris, Tunis, agencies — The Algerian EL ANSAR bulletin has announced that the Algerian Armed Islamic Group [GIA] carried out the Paris Saint-Michel metro operation. That coincides indirectly with the announcement by Paris explosives experts that the device used in the operation was similar to devices used in the past by Algerian extremists. [passage omitted]

The bulletin, which is secretly distributed in a number of European capitals, including London, said that GIA units carried out the operation against what it described as the crusaders in Paris. Seven civilians were killed in the explosion. The bulletin's claim has not been confirmed by any informed source in London.

In Paris, French police sources said yesterday that the experts were having difficulty identifying the type of explosives used. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Mubarak Receives King Husayn in Alexandria

NC0108091595 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0855 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Alexandria, 1 Aug (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan arrived at al-Nuzhah International Airport in Alexandria this morning for a brief visit to Egypt.

President Muhammad Husni Mubarak led the reception party for the Jordanian king at the airport.

Prime Minister Dr. 'Atif Sidqi, Defense Minister Marshal Muhammad Husayn Tantawi, Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa, the governor of Alexandria, president of Alexandria University, head of the local popular council, and members of the People's Assembly and Consultative Council were present to receive the king.

Musa Sends Messages to Leaders on Bosnia

Warren Christopher

NC3107174695 Cairo ESC Television in Arabic 1700 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Egypt has asked the United States to hold an urgent meeting between the International Contact Group and Islamic Contact Group to discuss the rising Serbian aggression in Bosnia. It also called for lifting the embargo on arms supplies to Bosnia.

Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has sent a message to that effect to his U.S. counterpart Warren Christopher. Dr. Usamah al-Baz, director of the President's Office for Political Affairs, conveyed the message during his talks with U.S. officials in Washington.

Russia's Kozyrev

NC3107151595 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has called on his Russian counterpart Andrey Kozyrev to expedite a meeting of the International and Islamic Contact Groups to discuss the deteriorating situation in Bosnia. This is stated in a message the Russian foreign minister received today during a meeting with Dr. Nabil al-'Urabi, Egypt's ambassador to Moscow. Musa's message stresses the need for this meeting to come up with practical and specific measures to end the fighting in Bosnia.

The Egyptian ambassador in Moscow stated that he had sensed from officials in the Russian Foreign Ministry that Moscow approves of the International Contact Group and Islamic Contact Group meeting to seek a practical and peaceful solution for the Bosnian problem that would be unbiased toward any side.

MB Leader Mashhur Interviewed on Recent Events

Views Arrest of MB Members

NC3107194695 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Jul 95

[Telephone interview with Mustafa Mashhur, deputy general guide of the Muslim Brotherhood, in Egypt, by unidentified correspondent; date not given—recorded]

[FBIS Translated Text] [Correspondent] Your Eminence Shaykh Mustafa Mashhur: Reports indicate that the Egyptian Government has arrested hundreds of your cadres. What are the reasons for these arrests?

[Mashhur] The large numbers who were arrested recently were youths who were spending time in a youth camp belonging to the government. This camp is licensed and is under the government's control and supervision. The government claims these youths were training to commit acts of violence—military preparations and other such activities. This is not correct. The government arrested 200 of these youths recently. Previously, the government arrested prominent Muslim Brotherhood [MB] figures from the various governorates who were expected to run as candidates in the coming People's Assembly elections. The government wanted to obstruct these elections and to prevent MB members from contesting them. This is the reason for this wave of arrests and for casting doubts on us and defaming us.

[Correspondent] The Egyptian Government claims that you have relations with the armed Islamic Group in Egypt and also with the National Islamic Front in Sudan. What is your comment?

[Mashhur] This is also a false and groundless claim. Quite the contrary, the armed Islamic groups that are fighting the government have no relations with us. Perhaps they even view us with dissatisfaction. They denounce our stand, which they consider negative because we do not condone their acts of violence. There are no relations whatsoever between us. Regarding Dr. al-Turabi, there is no relationship or cooperation between us and him on any matter relating to violence and terrorism.

[Correspondent] In your answer to the first question, you mentioned this point, mainly that the Egyptian Government claims that the summer youth camps opened by the MB are used as centers for training on military arts and exercises. Can you elaborate on this point?

[Mashhur] The MB did not opened these camps. The government opened these camps under the supervision of the Ministry of Youth. But after the summer leave and the end of exams, MB members have gone to these camps to engage in sports and relax. They are not MB camps. No unusual exercises take place there.

[Correspondent] The Egyptian Government claims that the financial aid the MB offers to the poor conceals political aims. What about that?

[Mashhur] We have no political aims other than the interest of the homeland and people. We help the needy and the poor. We do not have enough funds to offer a lot to the people but on occasions like Ramadan we try to give something to the poor. This is not done for political aims.

[Correspondent] Is there any relationship between the Egyptian Government's arrest of your cadres and the Zionist-Western incitement against the Egyptian Islamic movement in particular and the world Islamic movement in general?

[Mashhur] We notice that the world's hostile forces hate Islam, whether in Bosnia, Palestine, Chechnya, Kashmir, or elsewhere. They collaborate against Islam and the Muslims. I think that the Jews have a role in spreading ill will against Islam and Islamic fundamentalism and in linking Islam to violence and terrorism just because some youths carry out such acts for certain reasons. Perhaps this world atmosphere has affected our Arab countries, which see that the public in our countries is attracted to Islam. They imagine that the alternative to the ruling groups are the Islamists. They harass us for this reason.

Denies Accusation of Sudanese Contacts

NC3107202995 Beirut AL-SAFIR in Arabic 26 Jul 95 p 13

["Exclusive" report from Cairo]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Muslim Brotherhood's [MB] strongman, Mustafa Mashhur, denies the accusations the Egyptian Government is leveling against the Brotherhood, particularly regarding coordination with the violent Islamic groups—the Islamic Group and al-Jihad Organization on the internal front, and the National Islamic Front headed by Hasan al-Turabi in Sudan externally.

Mashhur, the leader of the MB's military wing and the man in charge of the MB members who were held prisoner in the 1960's, told AL-SAFIR that all these accusations are not true and themselves reveal the falsehoods. He denied the MB's intention to take over power. He said that the term "to take over power" is a military term that the MB does not know. The MB calls upon God for wisdom and good counsel.

Mustafa Mashhur did not deny that some MB members have attended Islamic meetings abroad, particularly in the United States and Germany. He wondered whether this is a violation of those countries' laws or a threat to Egypt's regime and national security.

Mashhur believes that the deal struck between the MB and the authorities in 1971 are lacking because the authorities violated the agreement, which stipulated that the Brotherhood's leaders should be released and the organization would get a license. In return, the MB would support former President Anwar al-Sadat by confronting the Nasirists and the leftists in general.

Mashhur denied the MB intends to take over power. He also denied contacts with the United States for this purpose. He confirmed that the Brothers control most professional unions through elections. He said that the terms "control" and "acquisition" are originally governmental terms. If peaceful expression through elections is considered a takeover, then this is a new development in governmental thinking. The results of such new thinking will be very bad for everyone and for the nation itself.

Answering a question, Mustafa Mashhur said: Everyone should realize that the MB is a reality with a concrete ideological influence. There are popular forces that believe in this thinking and seek by all legitimate ways and means to end all the restrictions on their activities and to exercise a right that is guaranteed by the Constitution and which is being stolen and ignored in strange and abnormal ways.

He reaffirmed his condemnation of terrorism. He said: The MB has affirmed in their book "Preachers, Not Judges" by the late Hasan al-Hudaybi, the former MB general guide, that they are the ones who have best handled the atheistic fatwas through words and deeds and tried to unite the youth in moderation and temperance. They have trained youths to preach action through good words and counsel.

He believes that some MB lawyers are defending the Islamic Group and al-Jihad in order to insure justice and fairness.

Mashhur spoke about the Brotherhood's stance on party pluralism and the contradiction of their stances on this issue. He pointed out that the conflicts among the parties in the 1940's prompted Imam Hasan al-Banna to demand an end to party pluralism. Now, however, the situation is different. Asked whether the Brotherhood will allow secularists and communists to establish their own parties, he said that Islam advocates the principles of dialogue and consultation over opinions, principles, and parties. Islam depends on the judiciary to decide whether parties are allowed to exist or not, provided they do not go against the bases of Islamic jurisprudence, which is the official religion of the state.

Mustafa Mashhur denied the presence of violent or moderate currents inside the MB. Everyone within the MB belongs to the united moderate current which calls on God for wisdom and good counsel.

Newspaper Criticizes Israeli Policy on Peace

NC0108065395 Cairo MENA in Arabic
0500 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 1 Aug (MENA)—AL-JUMHURIYAH has emphasized that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin's latest statements on peace with the Palestinians and Syrians prove that peace with Israel is truly deceptive.

The paper refers to Yitzhaq Rabin's assertion that Israel will retain the Jordan Valley and the mountains overlooking it and that it will (?dismantle) major settlements in the West Bank.

In its editorial today it says Israel's positions since before the peace era have proved to be inconsistent and that everything is negotiable. These stances comes with a prerequisite, that the peace talks must be conducted without preconditions, something that enables the Jewish state and its leaders to adopt and retract stances and approve and revoke principles.

The paper notes Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar's remarks that Israel agreed in Washington on aerial and satellite means of early warning and then backed down and insisted on ground control. So, no sooner does peace come within reach than it slips away, the paper adds.

Musa, Lesotho Foreign Minister Discuss Ties

NC3107172395 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa conferred today with the Lesotho foreign minister, who is currently visiting Cairo. They discussed current African issues and coordination of the two countries stands at the African meetings. They also reviewed developments in the Middle East in light of Egypt's efforts to promote the peace process and ways to bolster bilateral relations in the various fields.

Speaking after the meeting, the Lesotho foreign minister stated that he had handed Minister Musa a message from the Lesotho Government congratulating President Husni Mubarak on his escape from the attempted attack against his motorcade in Addis Ababa. He added that he had discussed with Minister Musa the election of the chairman of the African Development Bank, which is scheduled to take place next month, particularly since a candidate from Lesotho will contest this election.

Libya

Official Reports to al-Qadhdhafi on Russia Trip

LD2907184295 Tripoli JANA in English
1812 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tripoli, al-Nasir [July] 29, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY — The secretary of the General People's Committee for Energy this morning presented a report to the leader of the revolution on the results of his visit to the Russian Federation and the extensive talks he held with Mr Davydov, the Russian Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs.

Also the secretary conveyed the greetings of President Yeltsin of the Russian Federation, expressed by the prime minister when he met with the secretary, to the leader of the revolution.

The secretary of the General People's Committee for Energy paid a working visit to Moscow which lasted several days during which agreement was reached on the intensification of cooperation between the two countries and setting up joint investment companies as well cooperation in the fields of power generation, communications, transport, housing, tourism and banking.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Discusses Regional Relations

EA3107211695 Omdurman National Unity Radio
in Arabic 1730 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar al-Bashir, the president of the Republic, has said that Sudan has never been against Kuwait and never will be. He said that the expression opposing states does not apply to relations between Sudan and Kuwait. He pointed out that the Kuwaitis themselves have reservations about this expression. The expression emerged during the last Gulf war. He said this in an interview with the Qatar newspaper AL-ARAB. Al-Bashir added that matters must move toward the right direction among brothers. He stressed that all indicators now show that.

In the interview, the president of the Republic denied Sudan's bias to the side of the Somali leader, Mohamed Farah Aidid, in the Somali conflict. He said that Ali Mahdi Mohamed visited Khartoum some months ago. He hailed Sudan's assistance to Somalia.

Lt. Gen. al-Bashir described the frosty relations between Sudan, Algeria, and Tunisia as a contrived situation, confirming that Sudan does not interfere in the affairs of other states, but does not allow others to interfere in its internal affairs. He said: Relations with Algeria and Tunisia will return to normal. The president of the Republic stressed in his interview with AL-ARAB newspaper that the National Salvation Revolution does not set itself up as a foe against anyone.

Paper Criticizes Khartoum University Students

NC3107122695 Cairo MENA in Arabic
1005 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Khartoum, 31 Jul (MENA)—Independent Sudanese newspaper AL-RA'Y Al-AKHAR has accused the Khartoum University students' union of being behind the 29 July campus riots because it failed to control the meeting between Sudanese President 'Umar al-Bashir and university students. Commenting on a threatening message it received from the Khartoum University students' union, the paper says the union almost caused political disaster in the country. The paper, which published the threatening message in full, said it wonders if the Khartoum University students' union actually wrote the message or if it was written by another agency that backs it. The paper notes that it is not in the union's charter to attempt to terrorize newspapers. The paper stresses that these strange messages will not intimidate or scare it nor will the false statements by a student union. It points out that it reported on the incidents at the meeting between the Sudanese president and the students due to press honesty, particularly because international news agencies and radios were reporting on the incident.

MENA was the only news agency yesterday to report on the threatening message that the Sudanese newspaper received from the Khartoum University students' union.

SPLA Spokesman Denies Attack on SSIM Area

AB3107212595 London BBC World Service
in English 1705 GMT 31 Jul 95

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Sudan People's Liberation Army, the SPLA, has been responding to accusations from the breakaway South Sudan Independence Movement [SSIM] that it attacked an SSIM-controlled area in the western Upper Nile Region yesterday. The SSIM called it a serious breach of the cease-fire agreement signed by the two rival groups in April. Martin Okefok is a spokesman for the SPLA in Nairobi. Tom White asked him about the SSIM charges.

[Begin recording] [Okefok] This is absolutely not true and the SPLM [Sudanese People's Liberation Movement]-SPLA will like to categorically deny the report by the SSIM here and broadcast over the BBC last night, and repeated twice this morning in the African news, that the SPLA forces did not attack Ganjia last week.

[White] But if you didn't attack them, who did?

[Okefok] Well, this is an area of cattle rustling, and it is probably the case that some cattle rustling has taken place there.

[White] But the reports that we had were that villages were attacked and burned, that workers were killed, and it seems hard to believe that you are not responsible for the attack.

[Okefok] Well, cattle rustling is cattle rustling and it is normally accompanied by atrocious acts by forces that may carry out such an exercise.

[White] So, how are you going to react to the accusation that's being made against you?

[Okefok] Well, I still reiterate the fact that if at all this attack did take place, it must be cattle rustling, which is very.... [pauses] something very, very common in the area, or else the SSIM here might be trying to keep themselves alive in the news for their own motives.

[White] We understand that, technically, the cease-fire ran out at the weekend.

[Okefok] Yes, but still that does not indicate any intention from our side to do any ill.

[White] So, as far as you are concerned, the cease-fire was signed, and it still holds good.

[Okefok] That's right.

[White] So, in that case, isn't this action by the SSIM and their accusations quite inflammatory as far as you are concerned? Isn't this a matter that you'd want to take farther with them?

[Okefok] Well, definitely, and you know there is no smoke without fire, so the fact that they went into the air with that kind of news may have indication of some hidden agenda.

[White] And what do you think that hidden agenda might be?

[Okefok] Well, I cannot tell you at the moment but we'll try to monitor as closely at possible. [end recording]

Saudi Arabia

Clinton Criticized for Policy on Bosnia

MM3107134795 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jul 95 p 9

[Article by Wafa'i Diyab: "From Clinton With Best Wishes"]

[FBIS Translated Text] President Bill Clinton has wasted more than one opportunity to be the best American president. The latest such opportunity was in Bosnia.

It is indeed a new world, in which U.S. President Bill Clinton does what he likes without anyone questioning him.

The truth is that Clinton fought his entire campaign on the basis that he would be a president for internal affairs, unlike his predecessor George Bush who spent his entire term dealing with foreign affairs. George Bush was so delighted with his foreign policy achievements that he stood up one day at the height of the election campaign to declare that his Democratic rival Bill Clinton understood nothing about international politics.

The fact is that the man knew the world through his studies at Oxford University. The young man who turned down military service and the Vietnam war did not have the foreign affairs experience of George Bush, but he had something else. He represented the new era in the United States as it was just emerging from the Cold War and entering a new world in which it is the only superpower.

In that sense Clinton must consider himself the luckiest U.S. president. Perhaps the first thing Clinton discovered was that Europe, even united, would still view Washington as the only political entity that everyone wanted to please.

Another sign of good luck is the fact that Clinton has ended a problem that his predecessors spent years trying to solve, namely the GATT agreement. Furthermore, the way is open for the first time to a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East, and it already seems that the Syrian-Israeli negotiations are set to succeed, as Secretary of State Warren Christopher has said.

The third and most important element of good luck for Clinton is the absence of the Soviet weight in terms of competition, confrontation, or threat. There is no Berlin wall and no Iron Curtain but wide open borders, and there is no Prague spring or Afghan winter but bright sunshine for all.

But against the disappearance of the elements of confrontation with the Soviets, there is the element of confrontation with one's self, particularly on Bosnia. Will the U.S. President remain a spectator, just looking on at what is taking place there and content with the expressions of regret uttered by his secretary of state after him? And after the U.S. Senate's decision to lift the embargo on Bosnia and NATO's decision to escalate against the Serbs, will Bosnia remain a disappointment to the whole world?

As they prepare to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the United Nations, the Kuwaitis must be telling themselves that the best thing about the Kuwait crisis was that it occurred when Butrus-Ghali was not the UN secretary general and Bill Clinton was not the President of the United States, and they refuse even to think what might have happened if De Cuellar and George Bush had lived in a different world.

Now weep for the Bosnians.

Decision on Bosnia Embargo 'Better Late Than Never'

MM2807160195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 28 Jul 95 p 9

[Editorial: "A Decision Three Years Late"]

[FBIS Translated Text] If Europe believes that the U.S. Senate's decision to lift the embargo on arms for Bosnia will lead to more bloodshed, what alternative does it propose, having failed to stop the Serb aggression by any other means?

More than three years after the start of the Bosnian tragedy and the blatant Serb aggression against its people and sovereignty, the U.S. Senate has taken the first international position that goes beyond the deliberate humanitarian diplomacy followed by all the Western capitals so far.

The assertion, by the U.S. Senate with a two-thirds majority of its members, that denying the legitimate Bosnian Government its right to defend its territory and sovereignty was "immoral" is perhaps the first Western attempt to deal with the Serb aggression on the basis of political realism and not just humanitarian sentiments.

The decision is better late than never — as the French saying goes — but the appropriate time for that decision was 1992, the year Bosnia-Herzegovina joined the United Nations and gained international recognition of its sovereignty and legitimacy.

Nonetheless, and despite the fact that the delay in lifting the ban on the supply of arms to Bosnia-Herzegovina played into the hands of the Serb military, the U.S. Senate's decision is considered to be an effective decision morally and politically as far as the future of the situation on the ground in Bosnia is concerned, if it completes the course with approval by the House of Representatives and if it is crowned with President Bill Clinton's implicit approval by not vetoing it if it does not get the approval of two thirds of the House of Representatives.

Perhaps the U.S. Senate's decision had some internal and electoral dimensions, even though it was passed with a majority from both the Democratic and Republican parties.

Externally, however, it may be a turning point in the course and fate of the Bosnian crisis. The decision links its implementation, if finally approved, to the withdrawal of the UN Protection Force from Bosnia or the passage of 90 days after the Bosnian Government's request for its withdrawal.

In as much as such withdrawal would give preference to the military solution over the political solution in Bosnia, it would also mark a radical diplomatic division between the American and European approaches to the Bosnian crisis. In fact, signs of such a diplomatic divorce have already appeared in France's reaction to the U.S. Senate's vote, seeing it as a decision that would definitely lead to the withdrawal of the UN Protection Force from Bosnia.

But the failure of the UN Protection Force to "protect" the "safe" areas in Bosnia, and the failure of Europe to persuade the Serbs to end their aggression and to accept a peaceful settlement of the dispute, justify the question: What is the European alternative to lifting the ban on arms for Bosnia?

'International Failure' on Bosnia 'No Longer Tolerable'

MM2807152195 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Jul 95 p 9

[Editorial: "The Shame in Bosnia"]

[FBIS Translated Text] This international failure in the face of the Serb atrocities in Bosnia-Herzegovina is no longer tolerable or justifiable.

The world is taking an impotent stand against the atrocities taking place in Bosnia-Herzegovina. By the world we mean the big powers who are responsible for international stability and security. The extent to which these powers move to confront the aggressor and prevent continuation of its aggression would reflect the position the world should take in the face of any aggression. Despite the fact that it has been clear since the beginning of the war in Bosnia-Herzegovina that the Bosnian Serbs were bent on aggression as a matter of policy and practice to impose their hegemony, the failure of the big powers in the face of the aggression from the beginning encouraged that Serb aggression to reach the present dimension.

Now, after all the atrocities and crimes committed throughout the war years and still being committed to this very day, the Bosnian Muslims, who are the victims of that Serb aggression, are denied the right of armament to resist that aggression. It is regrettable that that denial derives international "legitimacy" from the ban on the sale of arms to the government of Bosnia—Herzegovina. The big powers, represented by NATO and the Security Council permanent members, do nothing more than talk and make threats, which the Serbs and their leaders do not take seriously. On the contrary, the Serb leaders' reaction to any threats or ultimatums is more aggression and more seizure of territory, including the areas declared by the United Nations as "safe areas."

For days now we have been witnessing flagrant examples of bestial Serb aggression. It is no exaggeration to say that what is taking place in Bosnia—Herzegovina these days is a brand of shame the responsibility for which falls on the big powers which, if they wish, could, with deeds not words, check and stop the Serb aggression. Threats and ultimatums here and there by these big powers are not enough, just as it is not enough merely to officially accuse the Serb leaders of committing war crimes. What is required is urgent and decisive action to end that shame.

The first step in such effective and decisive action should be to lift the unfair ban on the supply of arms to the Bosnian Muslims. Another urgently needed step is for the NATO states to come down with all their weight on the Serbs to make them stop the atrocities and barbaric crimes they commit every day.

As we see the 20th century out, what is happening in Bosnia-Herzegovina today is a shame on the world.

Over 67 Million Riyals Collected for Bosnian Muslims

JN3007203395 Riyadh AL-JAZIRAH in Arabic 27 Jul 95 pp 1, 23

[FBIS Translated Text] Monetary donations recently collected for the Muslims of Bosnia by the higher commission for collecting donations for the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina and Somalia has reached 67,076,046 Saudi riyals, 50 million of which were donated by the custodian of the two holy mosques.

Sa'ud al-Rushud, director of the commission's executive office, said that donations by the custodian of the two holy mosques to the Muslims of Bosnia continue to form an important and basic factor for the growth of donations at the higher commission. The donations by the custodian of the two holy mosques, may God preserve him, constituted more than a third of the donations collected by the higher commission, which exceeded 800 million Saudi riyals.

He added that these recent donations came in response to a humanitarian call by His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, head of the higher commission, for supporting the Muslims of Bosnia who are facing the danger of annihilation, displacement, siege, and starvation as a result of the Serb aggression. This call also comes in response to the situation that the displaced people in Srebrenica are facing after the treacherous Serb incursion into the city. This created a tragic and painful situation in which many Bosnian families lost their homes and property. Others lost their sons and fathers in a unjust war.

Al-Rushud noted that the commission immediately embarked on offering support for the people displaced from the devastated city and who are now living in the open around Tuzla airport. He said that based on the directives of His Royal Highness Prince Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the commission offered 8,000 heads of cattle, which is more than 1,000 tonnes of meat, as well as 1,700 tonnes of various foodstuffs, which were distributed to the displaced people by the commission's offices in Bosnia. This is in addition to other amounts of clothing and blankets that are currently being distributed. Al-Rushud said that a ship was sent to Bosnia three weeks ago, noting that its 5,000-tonne shipment is being distributed to the needy and displaced people. He added that at the end of this week another ship will leave the Islamic port of Jeddah for the Croatian port of Ploce. The ship will be laden with foodstuffs and material donations by good people, including businessmen, citizens, and residents in this good country. Moreover, the commission plans to send a third ship at the end of Rabi' al-Awwal. He added that the commission urges good people to continue their support for their brothers in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

King Fahd Sends Letter to Syria's al-Asad

LD2907205495 Riyadh SPA in Arabic
2012 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, the custodian of the two holy mosques, has sent a letter to His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad of the Syrian Arab Republic. The letter was conveyed by the foreign minister, His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, during an audience with President al-Asad in Damascus this evening. Also present during the audience were Muhammad Aba-al-Khayl, minister of finance and national economy; Education Minister Dr. 'Abd-al-Aziz al-Khuwaytir; Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'; 'Abd-al-Muhsin al-Balla', Saudi ambassador to Syria; and 'Umar al-Sayyid, Syrian ambassador to Saudi Arabia.

New 'Comprehensive' Security Plan Set for Riyadh

LD2807195095 Riyadh SPA in English
1917 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] RIYADH, JULY 28, SPA — The experience of the comprehensive security would be implemented in the capital city of Riyadh after the current test of the plan in the western and eastern regions realised a brilliant success, Major General Mohamed Saleh al-Barak, police commissioner of Riyadh said.

Major General al-Barak, who made the remarks in a press statement published on Friday, said the comprehensive security plan was designed for unifying the powers of policemen and to enable a security man from any branch to investigate any offense at any place.

"Traffic police vehicles will disappear and the emergency police car will be the only security car that patrols roads to deal with criminal and traffic offenses," he said.

United Arab Emirates

Paper Questions Senate Decision on Bosnia Arms Embargo

JN3107161695 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic
28 Jul 95 p 1

[Editorial: "Queries"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The U.S. Senate's decision to lift the arms embargo on the Bosnian Muslims might seem to be positive in outward appearance. However, the circumstances surrounding this decision raise many questions and skepticism that cannot be understood.

The first of these queries is: Why does President Clinton threaten to use the veto to cancel the decision while several months ago he urged the Congress to adopt it and to criticize the Republican majority for hampering his efforts to help Bosnia-Herzegovina? What is the secret behind such a full shift in position?

Why did the Republican majority make this decision, which completely contradicts the Republican Party's general policy to avoid involvement in the outside world's problems, at a time when they undoubtedly know that the U.S. Administration will object?

Moreover, if we disregarded Clinton's objection and imagined that the U.S. ships would head toward the

Adriatic Sea tomorrow loaded with arms shipments, would these ships defy the UN inspection boats entrusted with implementing the international embargo that has not yet been lifted?

Most probably, the U.S. Senate's decision is part of the party game in the United States rather than an attempt to help the Bosnian Muslims stand fast in the face of the fatal Serbian onslaught. This is because without Clinton's approval, and without being accompanied by a clear change in the UN position, the decision will continue to be worthless and will never be implemented.

The whole world is preoccupied with this side event at a time when the Serbian annihilation plan is proceeding on its bloody path at a faster rate so that Bihac can be seized as soon as possible.

For example, when Britain warns that the downfall of Bihac will lead to a terrible humanitarian catastrophe, we should recall that such a warning was also made prior to the downfall of Srebrenica and later Zepa, which have fallen. However, the forces who issued this warning did nothing practical to prevent this downfall.

The Muslims should not pay any attention to paralyzed decisions, which are the results of party politics and which we have nothing to do with, or to worthless weak warnings. They should hold the reins of initiative with their own hands. The Bosnian Muslims can only be saved by their Muslim brothers. Let everyone's slogan be that this is a case in which one loves martyrdom.

Rapprochement Sought With Egypt, Other Arabs

NC3007204895 Cairo MENA in Arabic
2011 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Cairo, 30 Jul (MENA)—Iraqi Foreign Minister Muhammad Sa'id al-Sahhaf has announced that his country is willing to exchange positive steps with any Arab party that has a negative relationship with Iraq. He noted that Iraq will take two steps toward any Arab country that takes one step toward it.

In a statement to the newspaper AL-'ARABI, mouthpiece of the Nasirite Arab Democratic Party, to be published tomorrow, al-Sahhaf said there has always been true love between the Egyptians and Iraqis. He added that even when events clouded the relationship, this did not affect the feelings of the two nations for each other. But al-Sahhaf noted that there is regret that we are losing time now.

Al-Sahhaf made the statement to AL-'ARABI during his visit to Cairo last week. He announced that the Iraqis are waiting for the embargo to be lifted so as to welcome experts and workers from Egypt and other Arab countries.

In his statement to AL-'ARABI, the Iraqi foreign minister commented on the embargo imposed on his country by the UN Security Council. He stated that if the embargo is not lifted by the end of August, Iraq will stop dealing with the Security Council.

Al-Sahhaf declared: We can remain steadfast indefinitely.

He said if Iraq implements and accepts the resolutions, then the process will reach its natural conclusion.

He added: If they lift the embargo, then fine. If they do not, we will stop dealing with them and tell them goodbye. We can take care of ourselves; we will do what we can.

The Iraqi foreign minister announced: We believe the embargo will collapse because the world knows we have done everything that was asked of us and more.

Asked about reports pertaining to Iraqi-Israeli contacts, al-Sahhaf said the reports were false.

Saddam Discusses Need To Locate Shortcomings

JN3007193595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1755 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has chaired the cabinet's 28th session.

His excellency gave instructions that new methods in administrative work that conform to Iraq's current conditions must be derived. He urged continued field monitoring to assess these methods to reveal the causes of any shortcoming or fault and to create alternatives that correspond to the current state of affairs.

His excellency stressed that no circumstance or link in the administrative chain should be allowed to affect work and cause any individual to lose himself, a loss which, his excellency said, is very difficult to compensate unlike the material loss.

The cabinet discussed several irrigation projects and organizational and financial issues and made necessary decisions in this regard.

The cabinet decided to set up Bayt al-Hikmah [house of wisdom], a cultural institution to specialize in research and studies of the Arab nation's history, present, and future.

Vice President Meets Sudanese Irrigation Minister

JN2907165595 Baghdad INA in Arabic
1350 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—Taha Yasin Ramadan, member of the Revolution Command Council and vice president, has received Sudanese Minister of Irrigation Dr. Ya'qub Abu-Shura. During the meeting, Taha Yasin Ramadan received a written message from Sudanese Second Vice President George Kongor on Iraqi-Sudanese ties. The message stresses Sudan's eagerness to expand these ties in all areas and under all circumstances so that the two countries may set a model for realizing the aspirations and goals of the peoples of the two countries.

Taha Yasin Ramadan reiterated the the Iraqi leadership and people take pride in the fraternal and strong ties between Iraq and Sudan. He added that the Iraqi leadership and people highly appreciate the pan-Arab stands of the Sudanese leadership and people. Iraq also admires Sudan's support for pan-Arab causes, as well as its adherence to its territorial integrity and national unity, and its rejection of subservience. He went on to say: The extensive promotion of Iraqi-Sudanese ties under these tough circumstances reflects the strong determination of the officials of the two fraternal countries to cope with difficult circumstances and identify new areas for multifaceted bilateral cooperation at present and in the future. He stressed Iraq's willingness to contribute to the implementation of development projects in fraternal Sudan.

Taha Yasin Ramadan asserted that the firmness of the Arab leaders opposed to humiliation, subservience, and colonial rule in their pursuit of independence, freedom, and progress, coupled with the support of the Arab masses, is capable of thwarting all plotting and aggression against the Arab nation, which are aimed at partitioning this nation, plundering its resources, and colonizing it.

The meeting was attended by the deputy director of the Military Industrialization Organization and the Sudanese ambassador in Baghdad.

Islamic Group Attacks al-Nasiriyah Governor's Motorcade

JN3107153395 (Clandestine) Voice of Rebellious Iraq in Arabic 1415 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A group of Islamic revolution heroes recently attacked the motorcade of al-Nasiriyah Governor, criminal Salah 'Abbud, with machine guns and light weapons, killing several of his bodyguards and heavily damaging the criminal's car. But, the criminal managed to escape to one of the regime's dens of repression in al-Nasiriyah. He then summoned some of the mercenary tribal chiefs who have been appointed and imposed on their tribes by Saddam's security departments and threatened them that they will no longer receive their salaries if they do not further cooperate in repressing the mujahidin and tribe members who cooperate with them.

Dissidents Warn Regime Using Amnesty as Trap

NC3107205195 Paris AFP in English 1426 GMT 31 Jul 95

[By Mahir Chmaytilli]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, July 31 (AFP) — Iraq's President Saddam Husayn is seeking a lifting of international economic sanctions by announcing an amnesty for his opponents, opposition groups said Monday [31 July].

They also warned people against falling into a trap by accepting Saddam's offer. "All those who believed his promises ended up regretting it," Qasim Ghali, an opposition member in London, told AFP when contacted from Dubayy.

The Iraqi government announced Sunday an amnesty that called for the release of prisoners convicted for political reasons and for a stop to procedures against "fugitives" in and outside the country.

Iraq said the amnesty, the second in 10 days, was dictated by "humane and national considerations expressed by" Saddam Husayn.

Under the amnesty, those wanted for political crimes have a month to turn themselves in if they are inside the country and two months if they are residing elsewhere. The decree also calls for the restitution of property taken from those benefiting from the amnesty.

Iraq also decided on July 22 to offer amnesty to army deserters, who faced having their ear cut off, and changed the death sentence to life imprisonment and authorized the release in some cases of prisoners convicted of murder.

Baghdad "above all wants to get rid of the embargo" imposed by the United Nations following the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on August 2, 1990, according to Ghali, who works for the opposition newspaper AL-MU'TAMAR.

AL-MU'TAMAR represents the Iraqi National Congress, an umbrella for Kurdish, Sunni, Shiite Moslem and other opposition groups.

"Baghdad wants to improve its image before the sanctions are reviewed by the United Nations," Ghali said.

The UN Security Council is to review the sanctions in mid-September after the UN disarmament commission reports on whether Iraq has fulfilled a pledge to disclose all aspects of its germ warfare program.

Rolf Ekeus, the head of the UN Special Commission (UNSCOM) on disarming Iraq, said the germ warfare issue is the sole major obstacle to lifting the embargo.

Under UN resolutions ending the 1991 Gulf War to liberate Kuwait, Iraq must eliminate its weapons of mass destruction and comply with long-term arms monitoring before the oil embargo can be lifted.

But the United States has taken a harder line, demanding that Baghdad also comply with other conditions like the release of Kuwaiti prisoners and respect for human rights.

The last condition "explains the series of gestures to the Kurds" from Saddam, according to Sazan Sa'ib, an official with the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), an Iraqi Kurdish opposition group, in Ankara.

The official press has stepped up calls for Iraqi reconciliation with the PUK and the rival Kurdistan Democratic Party, which have controlled northern Iraq since the end of the 1991 Gulf war.

"But the Kurdish question cannot be resolved through a simple amnesty. The Kurds demand self-rule within a federal Iraq. They demand an end to the Arabization forced on them," Sa'ib said.

He said that 14,000 Kurdish families were driven out two months ago from the oil-rich Karkuk region "to change its demographic character" in favor of the Arabs.

"The Kurds, like other Iraqis, want greater democracy, a demand that goes further than a simple amnesty," he said.

"This amnesty is neither the first nor the last," Sa'ib said. One decreed in September 1988 "did not prevent it from deporting hundreds of thousands" of Kurds to other regions of Iraq.

Ghali said Saddam Husayn "has already announced a dozen amnesties without respecting them since 1979," when he became president of Iraq.

In 1992, around 12 members of the Syrian branch of the Ba'th Party, a rival of Saddam's party in Iraq, were executed after returning to Baghdad from Damascus, while a communist was executed after returning from Algeria, he said.

SAIRI on Need To Speed Up Demise of Regime

NC3107171995 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Islamic Revolution in Arabic 1430 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His eminence Ayatollah Muhammad Baqir al-Hakim, leader of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq [SAIRI], has received at the SAIRI office in Damascus Ahmad Mazlum al-Dulaymi, the brother of the late Air Force Major General Muhammad Mazlum al-Dulaymi, who was executed by the regime in May.

His eminence extended his condolences to the al-Dulaym tribe and prayed that God will save the Iraqi people from the rule of dictator Saddam. Al-Dulaymi said he was pleased to meet his eminence al- Hakim and wished him a good stay in Damascus.

His eminence Ayatollah al-Hakim also received in the SAIRI office in Damascus on 26 July a delegation of the [Ba'th Party's] National Command led by Safa'-al-Din al-Falaki, Iraq's former ambassador to the Netherlands. The delegation included Dr. Ahmad al-Musawi, member of the Iraqi region's command; and Hikmat al-Hilali, director of the Iraqi popular organizations in the National Command.

At the beginning of the meeting, the delegation welcomed his eminence's arrival in Syria and said that the Iraqi opposition parties are pinning great hopes on this visit. The two sides exchanged views on the steps that the major forces in the Iraqi oppositions should take to speed up the demise of the dictator. The two sides shared identical views on a number of issues that concern the Islamic and national movements. They agreed to step up their work so as to fulfill the Iraqi people's hopes and ambitions.

Ayatollah al-Hakim stressed that the opposition needs to act on its national Iraqi program by utilizing its own human and political resources and its good relations with the neighboring countries and the international community. His eminence said: We hope that we can draw up an action plan. We must think of ways to deal with the Iraqi Army and the tribes. We also must think of splitting the western area from the regime. He warned against returning to the old plans and getting involved in [words indistinct].

Concluding his talk, his eminence said: We have to look for a serious course of action that translates our objectives and ambitions into a concrete reality and which is at the same time capable of becoming the strong focal point of our confrontation with the regime, because any confrontation with the regime can now attract all Iraqis.

U.S. 'Interference' in Kurdish Affairs Condemned

JN2907112395 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0950 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—Iraq has condemned the U.S. Administration's blatant and impudent interference in the affairs of northern Iraq.

Culture and Information Minister Hamid Yusuf Hammadi told INA today that the U.S. officials have invited the warring parties in the autonomous region for a meeting and told them that no positive arrangements can result from negotiations with Baghdad.

Hammadi added that this stand exposes the U.S. policy which has been the main cause for the destruction and misery of our Kurdish people in the areas on which the United States has imposed its unjust control.

He said that the imposition of tutelage on the Iraqi Kurds in such a blatant manner and the U.S. opposition to the call for dialogue the authorities in Baghdad have made to the Kurdish groups in the autonomous region clearly show that the U.S. role in the region is not to achieve positive results for the Iraqi Kurds as the U.S. Administration claims but to impose its control on them and use them as a cheap card in its narrow-minded policy. This policy includes conspiring against Iraq and perpetuating the embargo on it, an embargo from which the United States reaps many financial benefits worth tens of billions of U.S. dollars a year which go to the U.S. treasury because Saudi Arabia and Kuwait have robbed Iraq of its share of oil exports.

The minister of culture and information said the disclosure of these facts requires several parties to think deeply about the situation. The countries that had been involved in the embargo on northern Iraq and which do not share the United States' tendentious political objectives, especially France, should reconsider a position that has become fully exposed as aggressive and selfish.

He added that Turkey should learn the appropriate lessons from the presence of U.S. forces on its territory, the sabotaging U.S. role in northern Iraq, and the threats Turkey faces as a result of this presence.

The minister urged the Kurdish citizens in northern Iraq to learn the right lessons and stop playing this filthy game in which the United States uses them as a cheap card in its political bargaining and economic interests. He also urged them to reject the fait accompli, respond to the leadership's sincere call, work for bolstering the homeland's integrity and bringing the situation in northern Iraq back to normal under the true, nationalist flag.

U.S. Said Responsible for 'Deterioration'

JN3107135895 Baghdad INA in English
1310 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Baghdad, July 31, INA — An Iraqi paper has held the U.S. Administration responsible for the deterioration of the security, economic and social situations in northern Iraq as a result of America's blatant interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

In an editorial on Monday [31 July], AL-QADISIYAH newspaper said the situation in the self-rule region of Kurdistan warn of danger due to the U.S. interference. Poverty, disease and hunger prevail the whole region, it added.

The paper stressed that the U.S Administration is itself who prevented the Kurdish parties from signing on a deal with the Iraqi Government on 1991.

AL-QADISIYAH said if we asked any of Iraqi Kurds whether the self-rule region of Kurdistan was really a safe resort for Kurds before or after the interference by the U.S. he would frankly say before.

The U.S. has failed in its media war against Iraq, said the paper, adding that the Arab and Islamic public opinion is with Iraq and the Iraqi leader but not with the U.S. Administration and its allies.

Barzani, Talabani Forces Continue To Clash

Barzani Radio Reports Successes

JN2807204495 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1850 GMT 28 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Beloved citizens. On the night of 8-9 July, the Jalalis [Talabani forces] violated the truce and attacked the bases of our hero peshmerga. After being defeated and their mean intentions foiled, the Jalalis began boasting that they were able to control the mountains of (Hamadakha) and (Klowqasim) in the (Bani Harir) mountain range. Then they began to issue threats that they would launch further attacks against the KDP peshmerga and they started preparations for this.

At 2300 on the night of 27-28 July, a clash took place between a joint force from the heroes of the 1st Army Corps [al-Faylaq al-awwal] and the (kpilk) axis forces and the attacking Jalali forces. In an unprecedented battle, the defenders of legitimacy and Kurdistan, the lions of the KDP and Barzani, recorded great examples of courage and daring. In two hours, they were able to purge the (Hamadakha) from the Jalali filth and to pursue their remnants after inflicting on them grave losses. They left several bodies behind.

The Jalalis left behind an 82-mm gun, a 60-mm gun, a 12.5-mm machinegun, and a large amount of ammunition and explosives.

O brother citizens, while our forces were confronting the attacking Jalali forces, the Jalalis launched another futile attack on the (Klawqasim) mountain in the (Bani Harir) mountain range. The KDP and Barzani men confronted the enemy attack and defeated the attacking Jalali forces. The forces in the (Bani Harir) axis, the 2d Army Corps, and the Barzani Army Corps in Shaqlawah and the special 2d brigade began pursuing the defeated Jalalis after inflicting on them heavy losses. Three posts in (Klawqasim) were cleansed of the filth of the Jalalis.

In another development, the Jalalis began savage shelling of the (Kasnazan) housing complex, inflicting heavy material damage on the inhabitants. Such is the courage of the peshmerga and such is the defeat and cowardice of the Jalalis. May you continue to be victorious, O heroes of the KDP and Barzani forces.

We also received the news that our heroes realized great victory in the Shaqlawah axis in (Klawqasim). According to the latest news from Shaqlawah, the Kurdistan peshemrga on the night of 27-28 July launched an attack, pursuing the remnants of the Jalalis in the strategic positions in Klawqasim.

The Jalalis lost heavy casualties. In addition to the bodies which were carried by the fleeing forces, the Jalalis left a number of dead men. They are: Amir Kamil Karim from the Karkuk area, born in 1975; and Muhammad Hasan Ramadan, born in Karkuk in 1972.

Our peshmerga captured the following:

1. Two 60-mm mortars
2. Four (DKC's)
3. Three RPG's
4. Fifteen Kalashnikovs

5. One binocular
6. A great amount of ammunition and military equipment

May you remain proud, O Kurdistan peshmerga, the lions of the KDP and Barzani. May you go from one victory to another.

Confirmed reports say that 12 bodies and more than 20 wounded men arrived in Raniyah on 28 July from the (Hamadakhah and (klawqasim,) most of them from outside the Raniyah region. The morale of the Jalalis have reached a new low that their men are now fleeting the war fronts. May God protect you, heroes of the KDP and Barzani. May you go from one victory to another to bring down dictatorship.

Further on Barzani Radio Reports

JN3007084095 (Clandestine) Voice of Iraqi Kurdistan in Arabic 1800 GMT 29 JUl 95

[FBIS Translated Text] On the night of 28-29 July, the defeated Jalalis [Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, PUK, forces] launched a futile attack on the impregnable trenches of the peshmerga in the (Kads Hamadagha). However, our peshmerga defeated them in one hour, pursued the attacking Jalalis, and inflicted heavy casualties. Our forces sustained no losses.

After defeating the Jalalis at (Kads Hamadagha), the Jalalis tried their bad luck again and attacked (Klawqasim) on the morning of 29 July. However, they were bitterly defeated as they were defeated at (Kads Hamadagha), and withdrew after suffering heavy casualties.

PUK Reports KDP Shelling of Irbil

NC3007155595 (Clandestine) Voice of the People of Kurdistan in Arabic 1515 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Ministry of Awqaf and Religious Affairs in the government of the Kurdistan Region has issued a statement strongly condemning the barbarian shelling of Irbil this morning. Many innocent citizens were martyred or wounded and a mosque in the al-'Ulama' district was badly damaged.

After the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan's [PUK] heroic peshmerga defeated gunmen from the treacherous leadership of the Kurdistan Democratic Party [KDP] on 28 July in the area of (Buyuka) and (Bakhshah), gunmen from the agent leadership launched a three-hour attack, using mortars and rocket launchers, on the (Banatnawa) residential compound near Irbil. The barbarian shelling left eight civilians wounded and caused severe damage to citizens' homes.

Kurd Factions Reportedly Agree to U.S.-Led Mediation

NC3107103795 Paris AFP in English 1006 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Nicosia, July 31 (AFP)—The two main feuding Kurdish factions in northern Iraq have accepted a U.S. plan for peace talks next week in Lisbon, Kurdish officials said Monday [31 July].

"The Americans suggested the two parties meet in Lisbon for peace talks," Bruska Shaways, a senior official of the Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP), told AFP by telephone from northern Iraq.

"We accepted to demonstrate our goodwill and will send a delegation consisting of members of our politburo," he said.

The rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) accepted the US offer for talks last week.

The meeting is scheduled for August 9 through August 11 in the Portuguese capital, and would be the first between the two sides' political bureaus in seven months. [passage omitted]

BABIL Urges Commission To Close Biological File

JN2907112995 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0920 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 29 Jul (INA)—BABIL has said that Iraq is keen to provide all the facilities and required cooperation to the UN Special Commission to close the biological file, the only remaining issue in its mission as stipulated by Resolution 687.

In an editorial today, the newspaper urged the UN Security Council Special Commission to complete its promised report and present it to the UN Security Council within a specific timeframe without wasting any more time and away from the fabricated accusations and unfounded lies that are promoted by the U.S. intelligence services.

The paper notes that certain western media quarters misinterpreted the speech delivered by President Saddam Husayn on the 27th anniversary of the 17-30 July Revolution anniversary. That speech focused on the need for the world community, particularly the UN Security Council and its permanent members, to shoulder its responsibilities as specified by Resolution 687 and fulfill the reciprocal commitment stipulated by that resolution to implement Paragraph 22 of the said resolution and lift the embargo imposed on Iraq's exports and financial dealings.

The paper adds: It is not fair for the Iraqis' humanitarian, moral, and financial sacrifices to go in vain without lifting this ugly embargo. The paper notes President Saddam Husayn's assertion that from now on, we will make no sacrifices unless our sacrifices are reciprocated with what they deserve; namely, the lifting of the embargo without the attachment of colonialist conditions, and without any deceitfulness, procrastination, or deception.

The paper stresses that the continuation of the political, diplomatic, and popular moves; making people aware of Iraq's fulfillment of its commitments; and reliance on the wisdom of President Saddam Husayn and the steadfastness of the Iraqi people and the solidarity of Arabs and all honorable free men in the world will help complete the final phase of the crossing to the shore of the evident victory.

UN Warned About U.S.-Created 'Media Confusion'

JN3007114495 Baghdad INA in Arabic
0715 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Baghdad, 30 Jul (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has criticized the U.S. and western media which are controlled by the trumpets of world Zionism and its evil organizations. The paper describes these medias' claims of objectivity, neutrality, and freedom to carry news and information as mere lies, worthy only of scorn and contempt.

In an article today, AL-THAWRAH, speaking on behalf of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, says that Iraq, as is widely known, has endured more than any other country the U.S.-Zionist media slander and its repercussions.

The paper explains that when the UN Security Council yielded to the U.S.-Zionist media lies, responded favorably to them, and passed unjust resolutions, Iraq confronted these lies with a host of facts.

AL-THAWRAH recalls the statements made by a Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Thursday, expressing the firm belief that the party responsible for the falsification of facts about Iraq seeks to create further complications and confusion whenever the Security Council discusses Iraq's fulfillment of its obligations.

The paper says: In its written reports to the Security Council, the UN Special Commission, which is entrusted with removing the weapons of mass destruction, has acknowledged Iraq's constructive and genuine cooperation with it and that it has concluded all its commitments regarding the files on the Iraqi missiles and chemical weapons. The commission is now in the process of closing the biological file, which will place the Security Council directly before its legal responsibilities and require it to lift the oil embargo imposed on Iraq in accordance with Paragraph 22 of Resolution 687.

AL-THAWRAH also calls on the UN Security Council to free itself from the string of complications and media confusion created by the United States, which caused the Security Council to deviate from its real duties and tasks.

More Reportage of Abu-Marzuq Arrest, Extradition

U.S. Asked To Make 'Arrest'

TA3107123295 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] A request for the arrest of Musa Abu-Marzuq has just been submitted to the Jerusalem District Court by the state. Abu-Marzuq has been arraigned in custody in New York.

Our correspondent Gay Qotev reports that the prosecution has declared its intention to ask the U.S. authorities to place Abu-Marzuq under temporary arrest until Israel files an extradition request.

Yehoshu'a Reznik, the prosecutor who compiled the request, stated in the application that in his activities, Abu-Marzuq conspired to commit crimes such as murder, manslaughter, and grievous bodily harm.

Court Issues Order for Arrest

TA3107160595 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] An order for the arrest of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] official Musa Abu-Marzuq has been issued by the Magistrate's Court here in Jerusalem. As a result, the prosecution intends applying to the U.S. authorities for a temporary detention order until Israel makes the formal application for his extradition. In court this morning, the prosecution said Abu-Marzuq was suspected of conspiracy to murder among other offenses. For more on what Israel is asking, here is David Ze'ev.

[Begin Ze'ev recording] In the request to the Jerusalem court, the state attorney said between 1990 and 1993, Abu-Marzuq several times dispatched emissaries on his behalf to Judaea, Samaria, and Gaza for the purpose of arranging Hamas military operations. He also took part in transferring funds to the territories in order to purchase weapons which were later used to carry out lethal attacks. In 1989, he arrived in Gaza and issued detailed instructions for setting up an organizational infrastructure for Hamas, including active violent activity.

In 1991, he worked in the United States to increase Hamas military activity in the territories. In 1992, he sent an emissary from the United States to the territories who carried with a considerable sum of money to finance Hamas activities.

The state attorney's request goes on: Abu-Marzuq's actions constitute the crimes of conspiracy to commit murder; conspiracy to commit manslaughter; conspiracy to inflict injury; and conspiracy to inflict grievous bodily harm. These actions, the request states, violate the various articles of the criminal code dealing with murder, manslaughter, and related crimes. Note that the word terrorism is not mentioned. [passage omitted]

Justice Minister Liba'i said the decision on the legal aspects of the Israeli request belongs to the attorney general, but that the possible political and security repercussions of bringing Abu-Marzuq to Israel are also being considered. He would not comment on whether the United States is willing to extradite Abu-Marzuq. An American source says consultations are underway among American officials. The source noted that by American law, Abu-Marzuq can be held in the United States indefinitely because he entered the country under false pretenses. [end recording]

Arrest Warrant Detailed

TA0108104195 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 1 Aug 95 p 1

[Report by Evelyn Gordon]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] Israel asked the US Justice Department last night to temporarily detain Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] activist Musa Abu-Marzuq, after the Jerusalem Magistrate's Court issued the necessary arrest warrant earlier in the day. [passage omitted]

According to the request submitted to magistrate's court:

— Abu-Marzuq heads Hamas's political bureau, which is responsible for setting policy on all important issues, including terror attacks, and for funding all activities.
— In 1989, Abu-Marzuq came to Gaza and "issued detailed instructions for setting up an organizational infrastructure for Hamas, including... violent activity."
— Between 1990 and 1993, Abu-Marzuq dispatched emissaries to the territories several times to arrange Hamas military operations, and transferred funds for the purchase of weapons later used in lethal attacks.
— In particular, Abu-Marzuq gave a Hamas activist in Hebron $100,000 in 1992, and the weapons bought with this money were used in attacks that resulted in the death of one soldier and the injury of two others. Some of the weapons were also transferred to Gaza and used in shooting attacks there.
— Abu-Marzuq sent another $300,000 to Hamas activists in the territories in 1993, which was used, among other things, to purchase weapons used in attacks against both soldiers and civilians.
— All of these acts, as well as the directives he sent to Hamas activists, "are evidence of his intention that

they carry out murders, cause grievous bodily harm, and inflict injuries with malicious intent." [passage omitted]

Peres on Decision To Extradite

TA3107154395 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1400 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres, commenting today on the decision to request the extradition of Musa Abu-Marzuq from the United States, said that Israel is determined to wage a merciless and resolute war against the terrorist organizations and their leaders. The man is undoubtedly responsible for serious terrorist attacks perpetrated by Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] against Israelis, the foreign minister said. Our political correspondent Udi Segal spoke with the foreign minister today and asked him whether the decision to request the extradition of Abu-Marzuq was politically motivated.

[Begin recording] [Peres] This is mainly a decision of principle. Clearly, within such a short time, one cannot examine the legal possibilities or the incriminating evidence. Therefore, we did all we could in light of the time constraints and reached a decision in principle to request his extradition.

[Segal] In your assessment, will it be possible to find within two months from today, the date of the issuance of the international arrest warrant, admissible legal evidence for Abu-Marzuq's extradition on the basis of the large quantity of intelligence information possessed by the Shin Bet and the IDF [Israel Defense Forces]?

[Peres] As for the information, it is indisputable that Abu- Marzuq is the leader of Hamas. He bears responsibility for the terrible crimes committed by Hamas. As for the legal weight of these facts, any comment would be premature. These issues are being examined.

[Segal] What political message is Israel seeking to send by requesting Abu-Marzuq's extradition from the United States?

[Peres] Terrorism not only extracts a price in human casualties, it also spreads fear. Just as one must combat terrorist operations, one must also confront the fear they spread. The main message we are sending is that Israel does not feel fear or apprehension. It is determined to wage a merciless and resolute war against terrorism, the terrorist organizations, and their leaders. [end recording]

Editorial Calls For Extradition

TA3007163595 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 30 Jul 95 p B1

[Editorial: "An Extradition Order Is Called For"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The report about the arrest of Dr. Musa Abu-Marzuq by the Americans invoked satisfaction and hope in Israel. The man who currently holds a very senior position in the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] leadership must be considered responsible for many terrorist actions. Officially Abu-Marzuq runs only the organization's political apparatus — and it is possible that not all the terrorist actions were inspired by him, but stemmed from local initiatives — still, we must not believe that the military arm's operations are not coordinated with the political arm.

The announcement of the man's arrest by the attorney general in Washington indicated embarrassment rather than triumph. Janet Reno confirmed the arrest two days after the fact and made haste to add that Abu-Marzuq was being investigated by the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Were these authorities wrong in not permitting Dr. Abu-Marzuq to enter the United States? He is on a list of people banned from entering the United States. According to the explanation offered by the department's spokeswoman: "His name is on the list of terrorists being watched."

There was almost the impression that the attorney general would have preferred had the Hamas leader not fallen into the hands of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. If she decides to give priority to political and public considerations, which necessitate U.S. action against terrorism — legislation on tougher punishment for terrorists is still awaiting the approval of both houses of Congress and the President's signature — there is no certainty that Abu-Marzuq's attorney will not manage to prove in court that the law violates the First Amendment.

It might have been more convenient for the attorney general had the Immigration and Naturalization Service issued a deportation order and returned Dr. Abu-Marzuq to Dubai in the Persian Gulf with the assertion that he raised funds in the United States "to assist terrorist organizations in the Middle East." Such a decision would have saved lots of trouble in the judicial arena.

Israel does not have to make do with such an American move. Preventing entry into the United States cannot be considered a meaningful American contribution to the war against Hamas terrorism. Abu-Marzuq's deportation means that he will be able to continue his activities somewhere else, and we can bet he will do so, even outside Jordan and Syria.

The prime minister said that Israel is very interested in Abu- Marzuq's extradition, but he is not certain about the Justice Ministry's ability to convince an American court that Abu-Marzuq is an important terrorist against whom there is concrete evidence linking him to serious crimes. Anyway, the prime minister thinks he will be dealt with there in accordance with U.S. law.

The extradition agreement between Israel and the United States requires Israel to present an indictment and not a conviction. There is still room to hope that the security and intelligence services have sufficient material for an Israeli court to issue an arrest warrant against Abu-Marzuq.

The government must present the U.S. Administration with an extradition request even if a criminal charge is presented against Abu-Marzuq in an American court. We must not give up the request to extradite him to Israel after he serves his punishment in the United States. Abu-Marzuq's detention in Israel will not be a "decisive blow" against Hamas — in the war against terrorism there are no "decisive blows." Israel, however, has the right to remove for years somebody suspected of initiating terrorist actions against its noncombatant civilians and from the cycle of hostile activities against it.

Commentary Advises Against Extradition

TA3007154495 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (HAYOM supplement) in Hebrew 30 Jul 95 p 5

[Commentary by 'Oded Granot: "Leave Abu-Marzuq to the Americans"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The bombing of the Twin Towers in New York opened the eyes of the Americans to the danger of Islamic terrorism. It is no longer a distant event in the Middle East, but an attack on the home front.

After the initial shock they started to get their act together quickly: carrying out searches, making arrests, and putting suspects on trial. Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and the other organizations were outlawed in the United States and the immigration authorities' computer was fed with the names of new fugitives.

Last week the American computer "intercepted" Musa Abu-Marzuq and pointed his way to jail. Abu-Marzuq, who has American citizenship, left his Virginia home when the ground under his feet began to shake and then made the mistake of thinking that everything had calmed down and that he could return.

The U.S. Administration should be praised for its resolve in fighting Islamic terrorism. Nevertheless, we should think twice before asking for his extradition in order to put him on trial here.

Israel has quite a lot of evidence about Abu-Marzuq's movements and activities. He is a leading activist in the Hamas political leadership who, among other things, raised funds and transferred them to the territories, as well as coordinating among Hamas centers around the world.

Still, there is very little substantiated evidence to offer as proof in a court of law about his direct involvement in terrorism and attacks against Israelis. That could make extradition proceedings difficult, extended, and complex, with no certainty that they will succeed.

Against the claim that Israel has "the moral duty" to demand the extradition of all leading activists in an organization which calls for the destruction of the state, we should remember that that rationale was used to convince Israel to bring and put on trial here Ivan Demjanjuk, and we know the outcome to that.

Without unequivocal evidence of Abu-Marzuq's participation in attacks against Israelis — whether in planning, implementation, or at least transferring orders — bringing him to Israel might create more problems than it will solve. It will invite attacks for bargaining purposes and will not lower the terror scale.

In fighting terrorism there is no room for compromise. Israel decided on the proper guiding principle that terrorists "with blood on their hands" must be hunted down and reached wherever they are. That principle was implemented fully against the Black September leaders, who were responsible for the murder of the Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics, among other things. That principle should be upheld in the future as well.

Israel does not, however, have to make itself into an international court for all activities by Hamas and its umbrella movement, the Muslim Brotherhood. We have an interest in convincing friendly governments to detain and put on trial in their territory activists of organizations calling for the destruction of Israel.

We should leave it to the Americans to deal with Abu-Marzuq and Shaykh 'Umar 'Abd-al-Rahman — who is on trial in the United States for the Twin Towers bombing — and to focus in the meantime on eliminating terrorism operating among us.

Knesset Rejects No-Confidence Motions

TA3107182895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Knesset has rejected the no-confidence motions submitted by the National Religious Party and Tzomet against the government on the issues of Jerusalem and the antiterror fight.

Our correspondent Yo'el Nir reports that 55 Knesset members opposed the motions while 44 supported them.

Ramat Gan Bomber Said To Be From Jordanian Hamas

TA2807114395 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Jul 95 p 2

[Report by Alon Pinkas and David Makovsky]

[FBIS Transcribed Excerpt] The Ramat Gan suicide bomber was apparently sent to carry out his attack by the Jordanian chapter of Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], without the knowledge of the Hamas leadership in Gaza, security sources said yesterday.

The sources said the possibility of an "outside job" is now seriously considered after no claim of responsibility was made by Hamas during the week, nor was the customary videocassette of the "martyr" released.

According to our source, the Hamas branch in Jordan, whose activities have recently been curbed by Jordanian authorities, opposed the self-imposed cease-fire that Hamas undertook in the last two-and-a-half months, and apparently decided to carry out an attack in an attempt to disrupt the tacit understanding reached between Hamas and the Palestinian Authority.

The source added that this understanding did not prevent Hamas from planning and attempting to execute attacks, but it did decrease the volume of attacks.

Israel has asked Jordan to assist in the efforts to determine the identity of the suicide bomber. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Said To Condone 'Terror' From West Bank

TA2707173395 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 27 Jul 95 pp 1, 2

[Report by Hagay Huberman]

[FBIS Translated Text] The terrorist who perpetrated the massacre on bus No. 20 in Ramat Gan was from Ramallah, not the Gaza Strip, Arab sources in Samaria said. Israeli sources refused to either confirm or deny the report.

Information received by the Jerusalem Foreign Ministry reveals that the understanding between 'Arafat and the Islamic organizations regarding a halt of terrorist attacks, which was based on conversations rather than a signed document, includes an agreement that while no attacks would ever be carried out from the Gaza Strip, attacks from Judaea and Samaria are possible as long as these areas are under Israeli rule.

Political circles in Jerusalem say that this must have been one of the reasons for the fact that no organization has claimed responsibility for the explosion so far. They maintain that the Gaza-based Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] and Islamic Jihad find it convenient to divert guilt toward Israeli—ruled Judaea and Samaria. "Hamas is walking a tight rope between the temptation to carry out attacks that may bring about the termination of the abominated political process, and the fear of punitive measures by 'Arafat and the loss of popular support among the Palestinians," Jerusalem circles say.

The circles explain that since the terrorist attacks do not emanate from the Palestinian Authority, the situation allows 'Arafat both to pursue the negotiations with Israel and to profess to adhere to the "cease-fire" with Hamas, which applies explicitly to the Strip alone, not to Judaea and Samaria.

Rabin Ends Activity of Land Purchasing Committee

TA2807113395 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Jul 95 p 1

[Report by On Levi]

[FBIS Translated Text] A committee dealing with the purchase of private land in the West Bank, which has operated secretly from the Prime Minister's Office, was closed down several weeks ago after Yitzhaq Rabin accidentally learned of its existence. The committee has not purchased any land since the establishment of the Rabin government, but it continued functioning.

Rabin learned about this committee when its members wanted to brief him about several deals on the table. After learning about it, Rabin ordered that letters be sent canceling the letters of appointments of the committee members and terminating its activity. Rabin ordered the cancellation of a large number of the deals on which the committee had been working on up to several weeks ago, directing others to be taken care of by other officials in his bureau.

The committee, headed by reserve Brigadier General Uri Beidetz, was established by former Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir in 1983, and has operated during the tenure of all Israeli Governments since then. It included representatives from the Civil Administration, the Jewish National Fund [JNF], Israel Land Administration, and former State Attorney's Office official Pli'a Albeck.

Over the years, this committee conducted and supervised dozens of land deals with Palestinians in the West Bank. Senior Defense Ministry sources say the committee served as a government tool for supervising land purchases and claim that it has even initiated the purchases. Contacts with the land owners was done via Arab and Israeli land dealers who guaranteed to keep their activity secret. The land was purchased for the Himanuta society [a JNF subsidiary] and the deals were financed with Treasury and JNF funds. Most of the land purchased by the society was handed over to the settlements.

The sources add that the committee approved the purchase of almost any land offered for sale, even if this was done without proper planning, as long as the purchase was legally viable.

The senior sources claim that the committee's activity has decreased over the last few years, even though it has not completely stopped. At the same time they note that during the tenure of the Rabin government the committee has not implemented any new deals.

Orders Break Up of Any New Settlements

TA0108103095 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV in Hebrew 1 Aug 95 p 2

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin yesterday ordered the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] and the Israel Police to prevent the establishment of additional illegal settlements in the territories.

According to Rabin's directive, the IDF and the police units are to disperse the settlers in the initial stages of the establishment of such a settlement. Among other things, this directive intends to ease the pressure on security forces and prevent interruptions in IDF and police daily training and activities. Yesterday on Hadagan Hill, for example, the police employed more than 1,000 officers, while the IDF sent more than five paratrooper companies.

Peres on Palestinian Golan Claim, Syrian Stand

JN2907093995 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 29 Jul 95 p 1, 6

[Interview with Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres in Tel Aviv by Salamah Ni'mat; date not given; granted to JORDAN TIMES and London-based AL-HAYAH]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Question: Where have you reached with the Palestinians? Are you satisfied with the situation as it stands?

Answer: We feel that we are doing something that no other country in the world would do. At the beginning the Palestinians said it was going to be Gaza first and last and that we shall not go beyond Gaza. Now they see that a promise made by Israel is a promise. Let us not forget that nobody is forcing us, nobody is pressing upon us to do that. Israel is not a weak country militarily, not a poor country economically, and we are doing it under very severe conditions because almost half of our people are against it. Because terror is still playing a role here and there, effecting the mood of the nation. But despite all this, we offered the first part of the autonomy which would enable them to go to free elections without the presence of the Israeli army. We have agreed to hand them over most of the cities including Qalqilyah which is nine miles from the sea, and Tulkarm, which is eleven miles from the sea, and Janin which is three miles from the border. I told 'Arafat, who complains that we made him the mayor of Gaza, that now he will also be the mayor of Nabulus, Ramallah and Bethlehem. Who else would do it. And I asked him if he understands why we are doing it under such demanding conditions. I told him nobody can explain it without understanding that for Israel it is our choice: We don't want to dominate the Palestinians, we don't want to dominate any other nation. There are a lot of rumours in the Arab World that we want to dominate the Middle Eastern economy. Nothing can be farther from the truth and our feelings. First of all, there is no Middle Eastern economy, there is Middle Eastern poverty. Who wants to dominate poverty. Our economy is not dependent... Secondly, why are we giving up our control over the (Palestinian) cities, really? In order to dominate what? (Who) needs the separation?

Q: Do you think the latest attack (in Ramat Gan) will accelerate the plan for separation between Israel and the occupied territories?

A: I think we have to distinguish between separation in the national sense and cooperation in the economic sense. I think, not only in the benefit of Israel, but for the benefit of peace and the well-being of all, the economies of Jordan, Palestinians and us have to be market economies, whereas from the point of view of government, each party will govern its own destiny and its own culture. I mean we'd like to have an economic Benelux and a political separation, a national separation. We don't want to dominate any Arab country, any Arab people, any Arab culture or language. It gives us neither pleasure nor satisfaction. Why should we? I mean one must be reasonable, why do we need it? We don't. What we want basically are two things: to be neighbours and have our neigbours in good shape, the better they feel the better neighbours we'll have.

Q: There are those in Jordan who believe that these attacks taking place might be the strongest factor in the Israeli elections, what do you think?

A: What we are doing is historically right but politically risky. You know. Peace is like an apple tree not like a tomato vegetable. With apples, it takes years and years before you see the fruits. In the meantime, we are paying politically. I hope we are gaining historically. But we are taking a real risk, and we have decided as a leadership that to win peace is more important than to win elections.

Q: Would that mean that you reject the accusations that most of the behavior of your government is geared towards the elections or dominated by electoral considerations?

A: What we are doing is against the conventional political wisdom. You know, (Henry) Kissinger, in an article published last week, wrote that every politician must make a choice between becoming a hero or a star. If you are willing to become a hero, you must take the right decisions, if you want to be a star, take decisions that please the people. Our choice in historic terms is a heroic one rather than one oriented towards stardom. We are not doing it because we want to be popular, but because we want to serve right.

Q: Where have you reached on the Syrian track?

A: We are now at the entrance to the Syrian puzzle. It is a puzzle within a riddle. I gave up the hope to understand correctly what are the Syrian decisions.

Q: Don't they seem to be orienting themselves to the eventuality of peace?

A: O.K., so how long will that take? When will they start to take decisions?

Q: What do you think of the argument that the priority for the Syrians is not necessarily the Golan, but that it lies in the relationship with the U.S. a regional role, Lebanon, the continuity of the regime, the economic package. etc...

A: I don't think one can separate one from the other, I think the question of prestige and dignity plays a major role in the considerations of al-Asad. He would also like to have relations with the United States and economic matters, but not instead of the Golan, rather in addition.

Q: Would you consider the Golan as his highest priority?

A: I mean it goes together for him... He wants two things, three things, not necessarily one after the other, he wants them simultaneously.

Q: Would Israel accept to allow Lebanon to become part of the deal?

A: It doesn't depend upon us. We would like to see an independent Lebanon. But whether Lebanon will become independent or not is a Lebanese choice not an Israeli one. We cannot provide Lebanon with something she doesn't try to achieve herself. We cannot replace Lebanon. We don't have the slightest ambition or desire for a piece of land or a drop of water or for a role in Lebanese politics. We would like to be good neighbours, we'd like to see Lebanon living in peace and independence, but we cannot do that on her behalf.

Q: It recently emerged that there are problems related to the future of al-Himmah in the Golan Heights, or what is known as the Palestinian Golan, what is your stand on this?

A: Al-Himmah was never part of Syria. They gained it by war (which goes) against (U.N. Resolutions) 242 and against the principle of nonacquisition of land by force. They have to respect that they cannot have it both ways. Why should what others took from them be returned while what they took from somebody else should be kept, why?

Q: So shouldn't it go the Palestinians?

A: I don't think so.

Q: Why not?

A: Now it's part of Israel, we didn't annex it I imagine, but now there are no Palestinians there. You see, it is difficult to talk about Palestinian rights, because there was never a Palestinian state, let us not forget. What we are considering is the Palestinian people and we are trying to make arrangements so that the Palestinian people will be able to live their own lives without our control or domination. But otherwise, I don't see any reason why we should give it up. And generally, I don't think that Israel can take so many risks. Everybody wants her to take risks, and we took risks. We gave back to Egypt all of the Sinai. We returned to Jordan the whole of the land and the water. You know, Israel used to be the size of Austria. 80,000 square kilometres, today it is 24,000 square kilometres, I mean we gave up a great deal of land and water and if somebody thinks that we are here just to give up everything, I don't see any reason why anybody should think so. We have to keep an option of self-defence, and we have already taken great risks.

Q: Would you consider the arrangements with Syria and the Syrians propose symmetrical security arrangements, why should Israel worry about that knowing quite well that the overall balance of power is in its favour?

A: In order to have a symmetrical security arrangement, you need two mountains, not one. When you have one mountain, you have no symmetry. It is not measured by the size of the land but by the altitude of the mountain. Clearly, whoever holds the Golan Heights has an advantage, not only for an attack but for an early warning. Now if Israel gives up most of the Golan heights, she clearly loses an advantage, and we would like to be sure that we have the necessary compensation to maintain an early warning state.

Q: But you must be aware of the Syrian military capabilities compared to those of Israel?

A: You never judge military capabilities without judging military logic. We are not sure who will rule Syria in let's say that next 20 years, or what will be his reasons. You know, some people go to war even though they know they don't have a chance to win it. We don't want wars, and we don't want to be surprised, because surprise is a weapon too. And for that reason, we need an early warning system and a permanent one which is not qualified by the political climate.

Q: Do you have a fixed vision as to how the region will look like in the post settlement era.

A: Look, I'm telling our friends, and may I say that, among the different negotiators I met in the Middle East, the Jordanian ones are the most understanding of the dilemma we are all facing. The problem is how to enter the 21st century with a market economy, with a science-based industry, with an open political mind. And we are telling our Arab neighbours and our friends: Take an example from Asia. They were dormant, almost backward countries, and look what they did in five to ten years. They have revolutionised themselves, and I'm not talking only about Singapore and Taiwan, I'm talking about Thailand and Korea. Look what happened in five-ten shorts years. We don't understand why the arab World doesn't understand this, because what the others have done, everybody can do, instead of the military skirmishes and spending so much money on the military, wars and prestige. They (in Asia) invested in education, they adopted market economies, opened up their borders. And today, to the surprise of everybody, what used to be once the Third World, is becoming one of the most vibrant economies in the world. Why can't it happen in the Middle East? We don't understand. In our judgement, if the leadership in the Arab countries will not do it, fundamentalists will take over. It is either progress or backwardness. and I would consider it very tragic if the Middle East becomes the backyard of the world. Nobody will wait for us. And all this talk about Arab economy; the economy today is not national, nor ethnic. Today, markets are more telling than countries. And it is available to everybody. The sources of modern strength and wealth are neither territorial, nor material nor national. They are scientific, technological and informative. So, we have no borders, no sovereignties, no distances. And I hope there will be a new leadership in the Arab World that will understand this. It is not a tragedy for Israel, but for the Arab World if things stay at a standstill and the standards of living in the Arab World remain low. You know, people misinterpret the concept of a new Middle East. It is a Middle East in a new age. And some people say Israel wants to integrate itself in the Middle East. That is not a problem, the problem is whether the Middle East wants to integrate itself in a new age which already exists all over the world. I want to emphasise that the Israeli economy is not dependent on the Middle East. We produce today 80 billion dollars a year, which is double as much as Saudi Arabia, and we generate it from the brain not from natural resources, and everybody can do that. We are very surprised by the amount of suspicions and prejudices and old-fasioned accusations. Today, no ruler is stronger than the television and no iron curtain can stop the silver curtain. So it is a matter of time. From our perspective, al-Asad wasted 18 years. Had he come the same time that al-Sadat did, he would have had everything like al-Sadat did. What did he gain in these 18 years? I want to understand.

Q: What is Israel's interpretation of the clause in the peace treaty concerning Jerusalem?

A: Whatever role Jordan has had in Jerusalem will be respected and it is respected, unless Jordan will give it up. It is her choice. But we shall respect the religious status quo in which Jordan had and has a saying. You see, there are two aspects about Jerusalem: One is Palestinian and relates itself to Jerusalem politically, and the other is the Muslim world as it relates to Jerusalem religiously. One may even say that I'm not so sure that all the Muslim countries would like to see the Palestinians as their agents from a religious point of view. What we are saying is that Jerusalem should be religiously open to all. Politically, it won't be a Berlin. We are not going to put a wall in the city. We are not going to make two cities in one city or two capitals in one city. It doesn't make any sense. Today there is a clear Jewish majority in Jerusalem. You have 550,000 residing in Jerusalem out of whom only 150,000 are Arabs carrying, by the way, Jordanian passports. We have to respect their rights, their individual rights, political rights, but we are not going to cut the city in two politically. Religiously it will be open to everybody.

Q: Are you offering Israeli passports to Palestinians in East Jerusalem?

A: Yes, to whoever wants. But very few are applying. We are giving them two things: The rights of a resident, namely to participate in the municipal elections and the option of citizenship.

Q: I heard the applicants have been increasing of late?

A: Yes, hundreds or thousands but not very many. I wouldn't take it as a political tendency.

Q: Is it a vote of no confidence in the Palestinian authority?

A: It is a free choice. We are not going to force anybody.

Q: Jordan is worried about your excavations under the al-Aqsa Mosque.

A: First of all, we are very careful with that. There are no excavations. There is a tunnel which goes to the Via de la Rosa [as published] which exists in fact. By opening it, it will facilitate the movement of people, nobody is talking about excavations. But since the story is a delicate issue, we are not in a hurry. We usually respect fully the rights and needs and feelings of every religion.

Q: The purpose of the transitional phase before reaching final status talks is to carry out confidence building measures. But it is increasingly obvious that there is no confidence being built in the interim between you and the Palestinians. Why not get directly into the final status?

A: First of all, I'm not sure I agree with you. For example in Gaza, there is a different mood already. It is beginning to emerge as a success. And there is a building sense of freedom, it is an entirely different mood in Gaza, it is a success. If you go to a permanent solution now, you will discover that you cannot move at all. It is suggesting to make your way by jumping instead of making your way by walking. Jumping may be more impressive, but it is so tiring that you can hardly negotiate your way.

Q: The Arab states are worried about your refusal to join the (nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty) NPT. What assurances can you offer the people of the Middle East about Israel's nuclear capabilities?

A: If people are worried about the NPT, let them judge us by our policies. If we are so strong why did we give up lands. To the contrary. We can be generous in our policies because we are strong in our security. There is no other country in the world that would do what we are doing, including the peace with Jordan which we are happy with. We gave Jordan back every inch of land, everything. Why did we do it? We could have stood and said we are a nuclear power and God knows what. But why should the Arab World worry from us. We are the ones who are worried from fundamentalism and Iran. We need the nuclear ambiguity basically because of Iran and fundamentalism. We are not worried from Jordan and Jordan shouldn't be worried from us. The same with Egypt. But we are worried from Iran, and we don't see any reason why should we come to Iran and say you shouldn't be worried from us. And if you permit me to say I think Iran is the greatest danger to Arab life in the future. I don't want to mention the list of countries that Iran has on its menu, but it is a rich menu.

Q: So you still think Israel needs a nuclear deterrent?

A: I didn't say that. I said that the suspicion that Israel has a nuclear deterrent is a deterrent. 'Amr Musa told me why don't you permit me to go and see Dimona. I told him look, if I permit you, you will go to Dimona and find there is nothing there, you would be at a loss. Why should you?

Q: But the whole world is convinced that you do possess nuclear weapons.

A: Good. This conviction is good enough.

Q: You are not denying that?

A: No. We have said clearly that we shall not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East.

Q: What does that mean?

A: It means that we shall not make the Middle East nuclear.

Q: Do you have suspicions that anybody else in the region is developing nuclear weapons?

A: Yes, Iran, It has enough oil and gas. They don't need any other source of energy. They are in a very poor shape economically, yet they are spending 800 million dollars to make a nuclear reactor. What for? It is written on the wall, not just an imaginary story.

Q: Is Israel willing to eventually join the NPT?

A: We didn't say yet yes or no. We said that as long as some of the signatories are cheating like Iraq and Iran and North Korea, we do not see much of it. We said that we will not be the first to introduce nuclear weapons to the Middle East. And in fact we are being supported by the United States, We are being tolerated by most countries.

Q: Where is Mordekhay Vanunu, why was his trial so secretive?

A: It is known Vanunu is in prison because he violated the laws of the land.

Q: But why isn't he allowed to speak?

A: He spoke already more than was necessary.

Q: What do you think of Jordanian democracy?

A: We consider the Jordanian administration as one of the most civilized in the Middle East. I don't want to insult anybody else, otherwise, I would've said the most civilised. The parliament is a new experiment in the life of Jordan, a new experience, Again the King contributed to democracy out of his own free choice. Not many kings did it. Parliament may express in a way some internal differences which exist. But we would regret very much if it is turned into an anti-peace institution. I think we have showed our sincere feelings towards Jordan. The land is already in the hands of Jordan and the water. I don't see why should there be any suspicion between Israel and Jordan.

Q: Do you support Iraq joining the peace process?

A: The problem for us is not Iraq but Saddam Husayn. I think Iraq is equipped to play an important role in the future of the Middle East. We have our problems with Saddam Husayn who fired 49 rockets into Israel and he says he is now contemplating the 50th. We don't need neighbours like him. So we distinguish between Iraq and its leader.

Q: But wouldn't you open a dialogue with Iraq?

A: How can you open a dialogue with a man you do not trust a word he says. You have to have an exchange of ideas not an exchange of voices. The voice of Saddam Husayn in this country means nothing.

Q: What do you think of the latest visit by the American congressman to Baghdad? Is this the beginning of a dialogue between the two sides?

A: I don't think so. I think America will stand fast in that position. I don't see any change in that policy in the near future unless there are very deep changes in Iraq itself.

Q: How do you see your standing in the forthcoming elections?

A: We shall have a tough fight. I think we shall win, but I wouldn't like to underrate the opposition to what we are doing. We are really swimming against the stream. The strength of the opposition is in the doubts of the people towards our policies because we are introducing novel politics, and this always creates doubts and scepticism. But I'm sure we shall overcome.

Q: Would you think peace with Syria help your chances?

A: We cannot do it for elections. We want to have a comprehensive peace. I think the results of the elections do not depend upon peace with Syria.

Q: There is always talk about differences between you and the prime minister, what are the causes of these differences?

A: Look. Both of us are no longer babies. We have discovered things that are greater than ourselves—that is the cause of peace which we are serving together. And as far as I'm concerned, I'm not going to trade policies for power. For me the policy of peace is the most important consideration.

Q: Did you say recently that you plan to retire soon?

A: No, that was an unfortunate quotation. I said that maybe the next parliament would be my last.

Q: And reports of your nomination as secretary general for the United Nations?

A: I never suggested that myself.

Q: Did you think about it?

A: No, I'm a provincial guy... and I would like to continue what I'm doing now.

Minister Beilin on Syrian, Palestinian Talks

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["Excerpts" of interview with Yosi Beilin, minister for economy and planning, by correspondent Salameh Ne'matt in Jerusalem; date not given]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] [Ne'matt] In view of the recent escalation of violence, are you going ahead with your policy of separation with the West Bank? Are you still planning to build a wall between you?

[Beilin] We spoke about a wall, but the idea of separation is a very important issue in Israel and is always mentioned when there are terrorist attacks. But it is very difficult to implement. It is not actually a kind of divorce from the Palestinians. The idea is to have a good fence in order to have good neighbours. I must admit it is not perceived like that neither in Israel nor by the Palestinians, and I think that even if physically nothing will happen, this question of separation versus integration will always be a dilemma for Israel and its neighbours. It has been an issue for the past 28 years and will continue to be. I met a very important Jordanian colleague who told me that in the beginning there was a fear that Israel would like to dominate the region, economically speaking, and that Israel was ready perhaps to withdraw physically or geographically and to reenter the region by having an economic influence, and as a result of it, there was a rejection in the Arab World, including Jordan. Later on, he said, 'we understood that because of the big gap between the Israeli economy and the Arab economies, if Israel is involved with the Arabs, there would be a kind of domination. And the question for us is not whether anybody would dominate us because if Israel doesn't dominate us, so there are the others, the Europeans, the Americans or whoever. But the question is whether we were ready for an Israeli influence economically speaking.' And he said that 'my own conclusion it is better to have the economic relationship with Israel despite this problem of asymmetery between the economies rather than have a foreign one.' But that is the private view of a Jordanian leader I am quoting without attribution.

[Ne'matt] But with seperation between Israel and the Palestinians there is a contradition there with Israel's claims that it wants to remove walls with the Arab World?

[Beilin] Well, I admit that it is a real question. The basic assumption is that we are not speaking here about equal integration. I mean otherwise it would have been much easier. But because of the asymmetry between the economies, what will happen if there was such an integration is that we will use the low wages and in many cases the natural resources in the region in exchange for new technology or financial services or whatever. And when it happens, people may say you see what kind of situation we have now, it is not a relationship between equals. And I'm quite afraid of it. If I have to decide, I believe I would subscribe to the idea that infrastructure and tourism is natural for us to cooperate... telecommunication, roads, railroads, energy, water, all these are natural for us to cooperate. Once we speak about other areas we should at least be careful not to fall into that trap. Maybe life is stronger, it is not up to governments. Eventually the businessmen on both sides will decide whether or not to cooperate. And if one Israeli businessman finds it very profitable to have a factory for textile elsewhere, he would not ask me what to do and will use the low wages in the neighbouring country and the natural resources and that would happen. But if it was up to me I would do it very carefully.

[Ne'matt] Considering that violence against Israel might play a major role in influencing elections in Israel, to what extent do you feel that public opinion in Israel blames your government and Mr. 'Arafat for this violence and may vote against you as a result?

[Beilin] Well, we are not immune. I said (recently) that we took part in the peace process not because of terrorism. We took part because of mainly two reasons: One we wanted to remove a strategic threat to Israel, which has been the case since 1948. And the second was to create a new situation whereby we are not controlling the Palestinian people who don't want us. Those were the two main issues. Now we never knew it would be possible to put an end to terrorism by that. But we knew that if there was a comprehensive peace, it might be much more difficult for the lunatics of this world to operate, because there won't be a popular support for them, because there would be different motivations, because the different leaderships would do their utmost in order to prevent them from opeating because they would have different interests by then.

[Ne'matt] Do you agree that in order to remove the political cover from violent groups you need to end the occupatin of the West Bank?

[Beilin] Regretfully, I'm not so sure. After all, a very significant recognition took place between us and the PLO and many people thought that as a result terrorism will decrease, but it increased actually. The end of the PLO terrorism was very important for the long range, but for the short run, it didn't stop terrorism.

[Ne'matt] But the occupation hasn't ended yet?

[Beilin] Yes, but I cannot promise my people that once there is full peace with the Palestinians, there would be no terrorism. Even (last week), the editor of the Hamas paper in Gaza was asked whether full peace with the Palestinian leadership would satisfy and put an end to terrorism, he said full peace yes, but not according to Yasir 'Arafat. You see, they see their leadership as traitors as here many people see our leadership.

[Ne'matt] I'm talking about removing sympathy for violence?

[Beilin] I hope very much that once we have comprehensive peace terrorism would decrease drastically.

[Ne'matt] What is happening in the Syrian track?

[Beilin] We are approaching the moment of truth with the Syrians. I think this moment of truth I believe is the end of 1995. I don't see any real prospect for a breakthrough in 1996 because of the American electoral year and the Israel electoral year. The Americans will not be done in order to help both of us negotiate. And regretfully, the Syrians believe they are negotiating with the Americans and that the Americans can deliver us, and they don't want to talk to us on a high political level. We complied with that because we want peace. We did not play the game of pride, despite the fact that we understand that as long as the level of negotiators is as such it would be very diffuclt to have a real breakthrough in the negotiations. After three years of negotiations, we are not too far from square one. There were some developments we cannot ignore: the release of Jews in Syria, the public appearance of (Foreign)

Minister (Farouk) Shar'a, the banners in Damascus, the speeches of President al-Asad with Mr. Clinton and without him in his parliament. All these should be remembered. But when it comes to the major issue of the process with Israel, I must note that despite the fact that our prime minister said that the extent of our withdrawal would be paralled to the extent of peace proposed by the Syrians, they did not jump on it. I mean they have a special way to portray whatever is said here as nothing new or nothing important. Nothing is preceived as a real step forward, mainly because if you admit that the other side is doing something you have to do something in parallel, but as long as you say what's the big deal, it is nothing, you can release yourself of a real step. and that is why I raised a question mark about the strategic decision of President al-Asad several months ago. I understand that President al-Asad is a very experienced and shrewd leader not because I know him but because I know many others who know him. And I understand that he understands there is no other superpower in the world today than the United States, And maybe his belief is that in order to have better relations with the United States it is important for him to have peace with Israel. But in order to take a strategic decision you have to pay a price. The price for peace is not only an Israeli one. On our side, it is very tangible, on the Syrian side, it is psychological, educational, political and symbolic. There are many people who have met President al-Asad in the last three to (four years) who say that for him the price may be seen very expensive, especially the normalisation with Israel, which is nationally and psychologically very difficult for him. And that is why, it is not that we have to discover the real policy behind the words. It is even him perhaps has not taken this decision as the decision was taken by King Husayn and chairman 'Arafat who also knew that they were going to pay a price for peace.

[Ne'matt] There is an argument that public opinion in Syria is ready for peace and that President al-Asad is preparing the country for peace. But that he is bargaining over other priorities including Syria's regional role, Lebanon and economic assistance, and that he wants the Americans to guarantee this as a package.

[Beilin] In a way your words are familiar to me, speaking with so many people who have met him. But on the other issues you mentioned, and there are others, there is very little we could do, if at all. And somehow, there is a lack of stamina on the Syrian side, because I don't know if these demands can be satisfied by anybody, but I did not see a kind of a political decision to say O.K. We are ready to do that, this is the list, let us check with the Americans, with the Europeans, the Japanese and the Israelis themselves, how can we satisfy these demands. Then we could find out that these demands are not achievable or maybe they are achievable. To the best of my knowledge, there was no activity on his side to check the reality of achieving these requirements. It is always an enigma. Somebody says maybe Lebanon is more important than the Golan. Another one says you know it is the terrorism list, a third says no it is the money, whatever. We are all asking and guessing. Therefore I ask myself: If President al-Asad wants peace so much and wants so many things, why is he so timid in putting them on the table? Does he believe, for example, that Israel will be more flexible towards the elections, that peace with Syria is so important for our victory, that we would be ready to give up more the closer we are to the elections. If he thinks so, then he doesn't understand Israeli democracy, which is the other way around. I think your analyses which appears in the form of a question is true. But I believe in the case of Syria that despite the readiness of the world to attribute to President al-Asad strategy, long-range strategy or whatever, that he also gets up in the morning asks himself what is good for him or for his country, then people around him tell him why should you go and pay a price of having normalization with Israel and tourists and an Israeli flag hoisted on the Israeli embassy? You have Lebanon, and the world understands you are having negotiations, nobody is accusing you of anything, the arms boycott was lifted in Europe, you have economic relations now which were not there in the past, you have good relations with Iran which may be harmed if you make peace with Israel. I can suggest a whole list of arguments as to why not to make peace with us. And on the other hand, people may say to him that if you make peace with Israel you will have the world on your side, you will have the Americans, you may have some kind of economic assistance, you may have some grantees for what you want or whatever. And he wakes up every morning and asks himself whether that is true or not. He reads something in he paper, he gets angry, he says no, if this is the case, if that was being leaked, if the Americans said it, if Rabin said it, if Yossi Beilin said it, I'm not going on. And I believe that the second option is the more realistic one. There is no grand plan on his side, and he believes that somehow he can benefit from the time that is passing, and here, I believe, is his biggest mistake.

[Ne'matt] But why isn't Israel delivering on the question of symmetrical security arrangements despite having the upper military hand? Why not agree and call Syria's bluff?

[Beilin] I think Israel called his bluff. After many years in which we annexed the Golan heights, the governments of the past were not willing to withdraw an inch from the Golan. And Israel could have been accused for being too stubborn on the Syrian issue. But since the last three years, especially when our prime minister told him that our withdrawal from the Golan would be symmetrical with the Syrian readiness to make peace with us, we actually called his bluff.... withdraw to whatever international border agreed between us, for us the most important thing is not the land but the security. I cannot enter into the details of the negotiations about security. Israel is so small that it is geographically almost a joke. And speaking here about symmetry with other countries is impossible. There is no symmetry between a country like Israel and Egypt or Jordan and Israel or Syria and Israel. That is why I believe that nobody is seriously referring to symmetry. I think once there is willingness on the Syrian side to talk with us about the details, to speak to us on a higher political level, we are going to solve the problems. I think the solutions by and large, are known to us. It is much more complicated with the Palestinians. With Syrians everybody knows more or less what would be the solution. With the Palestinians we have a process, close relations, we are still far from having the solution. With the Syrians, we do have a solution but we don't have a real process. And that is much more problematic because eventually, the process is conducive to a real solution, but if you have only a solution but no process, the solution becomes untenable, but once they decide to talk seriously, it shouldn't take long. That is why I am still optimistic about the option of having peace with Syria which is for us very very important, in the coming five months.

Without having peace with Syria, we would continue to have an open wound in Lebanon, since it is totally dependent on Syria and that is an ongoing problem for us which we would like to put an end to. And we have no territorial claims whatsoever in Lebanon.

[Ne'matt] The pretext for the transitional period with the Palestinians was building confidence, but there is not confidence building taking place in the past period, rather an increase in the level of violence. Why not begin final status negotiations now?

[Beilin] First of all, I have never believed in CBM's (confidence building measures), never. It seemed to me as a platitude, a substitute for the real thing. I believe in peace, I don't believe in a love affair, in that respect, you know, for many people it was a kind of substitute. They say: let us see, let us do something, today let us enable the Palestinians to take through the bridge 5000 dinars instead of 500 dinars, as if it may change the world. It might make things easier, but it doesn't change the world. I think that what we have to do is to have peace. If we don't, all these cbm's may become artificial and frustrating. Once we have peace, then we would need cbm's: Gestures, educational process and cultural process... as we have now between Jordan and Israel... in order to make peace you don't have to have early confidence building measures. And as occupiers, what kind of confidence building measures can you have...? There are riots, people are throwing stones at you, you are using tear gas and what not. They say don't react to a certain action. That is not possible.

[Ne'matt] Are you then calling for immediately entering final status talks?

[Beilin] Yes.

[Ne'matt] But you have problems with achieving a consensus on that in your government?

[Beilin] No. First of all we signed an agreement which refers to stages. That is why it is very difficult. The second thing is that the Palestinians have not said a final word about it. There is no consensus in the Palestinian camp that we should go directly to a permanent solution. I had a very interesting debate two months ago in Jerusalem with a good friend of mine, Abu al-'Ala. I supported permanent solution and he said no, let us to it stage by stage. So, on both sides, there is a kind of debate on the issue of permanent solution. The counter-argument is that if you tackle immediately the major issues of the permanent solution such as Jerusalem, and you find there is no way to agree, you may harm not only the prospects for the implementation of the permanent solution but also the prospects for an interim solution, and you would actually be with out anything. That is a very strong argument, I must admit.

[Ne'matt] Could you clarify this cat and mouse game about the NPT. and Israel's refusal to join and its claim that it would not be the first country to introduce nuclear weapons to the region?

[Beilin] Our policy means that in our part of the world, when some countries proved to have some nuclear capabilities despite signing the NPT, it would be wrong for us to sign it and to expose the countries of the region to international inspection. We prefer to have a regional agreement according to which, the nuclear-free zone would be the second floor of the peace process. Once we have peace with our neighbours, that would be the right time to negotiate a region which is free of mass destruction weapons, including nuclear weapons, and that would be open to mutual inspections and verifications.

[Ne'matt] Are you only talking about your immediate neighbours or others such as Iran and Iraq? Where do you draw the line?

[Beilin] As you understand, speaking about nuclear weapons, it is not just the proximity, it may take place from farther bases. I don't want to enter now into this very difficult and interesting question of where do you draw the line, but it is not only our immediate neighbours, that is true. Now only when we have peace, we can trust the other side to verify the situation in Israel and on the other side. But there is also a very important issue which I don't want to ignore which is perhaps one of the most delicate issues on the agenda. We are now in one of the most difficult historical controversies. It is not very simple for us. We are changing the map, We are creating a new agenda for Israel. We are touching the most delicate points in Israeli society which refer to symbols and there is nothing more difficult than referring to symbols. And we are having a very very tough debate at home. Those of our neighbours who believe that today it is not enough to speak to Israel about territorial compromises but that is the proper time to deal with its perceived deterrence, are doing the wrong thing if they really want to have peace, especially that we are quite outspoken about our readiness for this kind of two floors of peace: The first one is to make peace, and we know we are going to pay a very high price for peace and the second one is to have a nuclear-free zone in our part of the world. We have proved that we are not just toying with words, we are very serious about it. But to put pressure on Israel today to deal with both these issues in a parallel way is another way to say to us let us stop the peace process.

[Ne'matt] What about Iraq and reports of Israel considering bringing Iraq into the peace process eventually?

[Beilin] Well, we, of course, do not exclude Iraq. It is a very important country in our part of the world. It is not an emotional issue nor a personal issue with the current leadership of Iraq. And we hope very much to have eventually full peace not only with our immediate neighbours but also with countries like Iraq. The question today is a different one. Whether we should have some contacts with Iraq despite international sanctions. And here our answer is very clear. As long as these sanctions are there we are not going to breach them... Once these sanctions are removed, if you ask me personally, I would be one of those who would advocate relations with Iraq if they are ready to have them with us.

[Ne'matt] Regardless of the regime?

[Beilin] Regardless of the regime. I don't think we can be choosy. We did not elect any leader of our neighbours, they did not elect our leaders, and that is life. We have to comply with the regime as long as this regime is acting according to international norms. It goes for Iraq, it goes for Libya, and any other country.

Ambassador Indyk's Actions, Influence Viewed

TA2807165695 Tel Aviv MA'ARIV (SHABAT supplement) in Hebrew 28 Jul 95 pp 8, 9

[Article by Hemi Shalev: "The Uncle From America"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Ambassador Martin Indyk preferred not to meet with me when I prepared this article. I called on him immediately after the publication of the affair (which most likely did not take place) about the attempt by the U.S. ambassador to Israel to influence Knesset Member Arye Der'i to vote against the bill requiring a super majority for an amendment to the Golan Law. Indyk said he prefers not to meet with me because of the "previous affair" I reported about him.

"The previous affair" the ambassador referred to was published by MA'ARIV in early June. It reported an indirect reprimand of the ambassador's boss, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin, in Indyk's presence. Rabin told Christopher that the briefings by Americans to the Israeli press are "too meaty" for his taste. Christopher replied that care should be taken in such matters.

Rabin, it appears, forgot the whole business long ago. The American ambassador holds private meetings with the prime minister very frequently, out of all proportion to other ambassadors and in fair competition with the majority of cabinet ministers. There are some days that the telephone in the ambassador's office in Tel Aviv's Hayarqon Street serves as a hot line with the prime minister's office in Jerusalem or the Foreign Ministry. Indyk has been in Israel only three months, but he is integrated into the Israeli scene as though he has spent most of his life here. [passage omitted]

Indyk has two burning issues: the Israeli-Syrian peace and the opening of Israeli markets to American goods. On the second subject, he "intervenes in Israel's domestic affairs" in a very blunt and resolute manner. Indyk uses openly and proudly — and I believe also with a certain fervor — a bulldozer of overt and covert pressures: He turned Rabin into a champion of Detroit-made automobiles. Agriculture Minister Ya'aqov Tzur was forced to fight his attempts to have Israel import potatoes from northern Maine. He badgers Mikha Harish about food imports. Indyk does not let up; he is a salesman for his country's economy, and on that he can surprise his listeners with the use of not very diplomatic language. "We will not tolerate Israel's discriminatory attitude," MA'ARIV's headline screamed about a meeting, which was supposed to be boring, between a foreign ambassador and the heads of the Chambers of Commerce. [passage omitted]

When astonishment was uttered about his briefings to the press, it triggered nasty rebukes. Associates say that when he is asked about "overinvolvement" in Israeli politics and the media, Indyk replies that his activities here are no less, to put it mildly, than that of his counterpart, Israel's ambassador in the United States in influencing domestic political processes in the United States on issues affecting Israel's interests.

The response to Indyk, according to those who have reservations about his remarks, is that the intervention of minute Israel on the formidable United States cannot be compared to America's attempted influence on tiny Israel. Israel's existential interest in the United States cannot be compared with a superpower's strategic interests, of which it has many. No Israeli ambassador in Washington has been called "high commissioner," as Gad Ya'aqobi called one of Indyk's more successful predecessors, Ambassador Sam Lewis.

On the other hand, others claim, somebody who contributes tens of billions of dollars for the defense and welfare of the State of Israel, and who guards it against any harm as if it were the apple of its eye, has the right to intervene to some extent, gently, in Israel's so-called domestic affairs, which this week could have completely shattered the political process with Syria and perhaps also have brought down the government, which is conducting a policy almost to the full satisfaction of the United States.

Indyk brought back the color to U.S. representation here which for years suffered from a diplomatic sleeping sickness. He "balanced" somewhat the diplomatic ties between Israel and the United States and created a situation whereby both states, and not only Israel, have involved and well-versed ambassadors who can contribute information and ideas to their interlocutors.

Indyk regards Syria as the key to the peace process. He devotes most of his policy efforts to this issue. As the author of the American policy of "dual containment" toward Iran and Iraq, he is convinced that peace between Israel and Syria is a clear-cut U.S. interest. A settlement with the Palestinians, with all due respect, does not belong to that league.

People who know him from when he was active in AIPAC [America Israel Public Affairs Committee] claim that even then he showed a restrained attitude, to put it mildly, toward the Palestinians. In fact, during the late 1980's, Indyk and his friend, peace coordinator Dennis Ross, were called "Likudniks" in Israel. The sober leadership of the Likud at the time believed Indyk sympathized with their path if not with their ends. For Peres and his team, Ross and Indyk were not the most popular people, to put it diplomatically again. They were blamed for the fiasco, if not for actively contributing to the failure of the "London agreement," and for helping to keep the status quo. When he heard the attacks by "senior Likud officials" this week about his alleged intervention with Der'i on the Golan Law vote, Indyk could only smile in view of the changing times.

Indyk has friends from the entire spectrum of Israeli politics. He is a friend of Nimrod Novik, Eytan Haber, and the Meridor brothers — Dan and Salay. The underlying theme in the views he has expressed over the past decade should not be sought in Israeli politics, but in his loyalty to his American bosses. "The Washington Institute for Near East Policy" is funded partly by AIPAC's major donors, and they, now as then, feel more comfortable with Likud policy. Indyk, the immigrant from Australia, became an ardent American patriot, and his loyalty is now to his employer, who is also his President.

Somebody performed a political ruse on Indyk this week and used his hyperactivity to try to achieve a majority for the Golan Law amendment at the last minute. It happened to Indyk because he works hard. Next time, he will be more careful. Perhaps next time he will not meet Der'i on the eve of a decisive vote where SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] plays a central role.

The attacks on Indyk this week in the wake of the meeting he held with Arye Der'i gave us a glimpse of a situation in which there might not be the harmony now existing in Israeli-U.S. ties.

Several months after Clinton's election in November 1992, a most discrete question was put to Zalman Shoval, Israel's ambassador to the United States, and through him to Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The White House wanted to know in the most informal way possible what the two think about the possibility of a Jew's becoming U.S. ambassador to Israel. Among the candidates mentioned was Richard Schifter, a senior State Department official, who was considered one of Israel's greatest sympathizers in the administration. The Israeli response was, as far as we managed to ascertain, not too excited.

Two years of close cooperation between the two administrations and the especially close ties between the Clinton administration and the U.S. Jewish community has made that sensitive question irrelevant. When the time came to replace the previous ambassador Edward Djerejian, the administration had several candidates, some Jewish. Carnegie Foundation President Morton

Abramovitz was offered the post, but refused. Indyk was an almost-ideal candidate: well-connected with friends in high places in both countries. In America, one does not discuss publicly somebody's religion, but in Israel his Jewishness aroused displeasure on both sides of the political fence. The fears have so far not materialized.

And even if they come about, Indyk can use Henry Kissinger's remarks in his memoirs when he was called "a Jewboy" by Gush Emunim demonstrators when he came here to attain the separation of forces agreements in the mid-1970's, which paved the road to the era of peace.

Pirate Radio Station Channel 7 Closed

Ship Boarded, Shut Down

TA3107161795 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1500 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Channel 7, a pirate radio station broadcasting off the coast of Israel, has had its equipment seized and its manager taken in for questioning.

The ship from which Channel 7 broadcasts had docked at Ashdod for repairs when police went on board with a court order explaining that it had been transmitting without a license or a concession.

In the Knesset, a riot erupted over the decision to close down the station and two members, Sha'ul Yahalom of the National Religious Party and Yehoshu'a Matza', were ejected from the chamber.

The speaker said a special session would be called in the plenum to discuss the issue.

'Hundreds' Protest Closure

TA3107183895 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1800 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Hundreds of right-wing demonstrators rioted at the Abba Hilel Junction in Ramat Gan and attacked the Israel Channel 1 TV broadcasting van to protest the confiscation of Channel 7's transmitters. The television crew had to climb to the roof of the van. Our correspondent Pe'erli Shahar summoned the police, who managed to rescue the television van.

The demonstration is continuing, amid harsh exchanges between the demonstrators and border policemen.

More Details; Aloni Criticized

TA3107181595 (Internet) Shomron News Service in English 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Police together with inspectors of the Ministry of Communications have raided the ship used to broadcast radio programs for Channel 7 Radio this afternoon.

The police had court orders permitting them to board the ship, which is undergoing repairs this week. Communications Ministry Inspectors, under the authority of the Minister, MK (Meretz) Shulamit Aloni, have confiscated many transmitters and other technical equipment belonging to the radio station in the raised [raid] that was carried out in the Port of Ashdod.

Mr. Yo'el Tzur, a resident of Bet El (Shomron), the General Manager of the station has been place under arrest.

This appears to be the culmination of Minister Aloni's long war to stop the voice of the only non-government controlled radio station. Channel 7 has gained popularity throughout the country for its reporting the news as it happens without fear of government reprisals. The boat transmits from outside Israeli territorial waters. Members of the Meretz Party have voiced their opposition to the Right-Wing radio station and have demanded it be shut down for a very long time. It appears that freedom of speech is outweighed by the government's desire to once again appease the voice of the left.

King Addresses Journalists on Numerous Issues

On Bosnia, Arab Relations

JN3107204995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn has asserted that the Jordanian move to support the Bosnian people and put an end to their suffering emanated from human, principled, and ethical considerations. His majesty reviewed the contacts he held with a number of Arab and Islamic leaders as well as with the Security Council's five permanent member states to put an end to the human tragedy in Bosnia in line with the Jordanian Hashemite values of preserving principles, values, and ethics that safeguard man's dignity and rights.

His majesty made these remarks in a meeting with media representatives held at the house of Prince Hasan, who took part in the meeting, this afternoon. His majesty said he is proud of the comprehensive Jordanian response to the Hashemite charity call — a response that embodied the Jordanian people's belief in human principles and values that were at the center of the Hashemite initiative.

His majesty warned against the perpetuation of the current situation in Bosnia and the spread of turbulences which would be very costly to the world, adding that nobody will then be able to put these turbulences under control.

His majesty talked about inter-Arab relations, emphasizing Jordan's keenness on joint Arab action and on cleansing the Arab atmosphere. He voiced hope that relations among Arab brethren will soon return to a position that would enable them to face the challenges of the current stage.

His majesty underlined the principled and unwavering position toward efforts to reach a just and comprehensive peace in the region. He expressed Jordan's readiness to extend full support to the Palestinian brethren so that they can restore their rights on their national soil.

Regarding Jordan's relations with the brethren in the Arabian Gulf, his majesty said that these relations are good and call for satisfaction and will soon be back to normal.

His majesty spoke to the media representatives on domestic issues, highlighting the need to upgrade the performance of the administrative apparatus so that it can meet the requirements of the upcoming phase.

His Majesty King Husayn said Jordan is proud of its democratic march, underlining its efforts to strengthen democracy under the constitution and the national charter, based on the principle of the minority's respect for and compliance with the majority's opinion and the right of the majority to choose the path of all.

Speaking about the role of the professional unions, his majesty called on these unions to take care of the level of the profession and to upgrade the performance of their members.

His majesty called on the media representatives to deal with the current stage with awareness and optimism and to avoid the replication of cliches that were superseded by the stage. He expressed his pride in the enlightened majority of our people, who realize the higher interest of the homeland and take pride in its march and achievements away from the passive and frustrating voices.

His Highness Crown Prince Hasan spoke at the beginning of the meeting about His Majesty King Husayn's initiative to support the Bosnian people. He presented the media representatives with a comprehensive analysis of the situation in the Balkan area. He said the Hashemite initiative is based on human and ethical foundations and aims to dignify man away from any political motives. His highness said the conflict in that area may spread, adding that the atrocities committed there remind us of the woes of World War II and the practices witnessed in the middle ages.

On Lifting of Iraqi Embargo

JN0108091895 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 1 Aug 95 p 1, 21

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] His Majesty King Husayn has said that the Jordanian initiative to assist the Bosnian people was a genuine Jordanian effort based on Jordan's belief in human principles and in response to its Islamic and international role. [passage omitted]

At a meeting with a number of media men yesterday in the presence of His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, his majesty called for collective international efforts to put an end to the tragedy of the Bosnians, and said Jordan is ready to do all it can to end the conflict. [passage omitted]

His majesty said: We are working to bolster and develop peace in a manner that realizes the national interest and provides future generations the chance of living the way we wish them to live.

His majesty stressed that the United States is not the decisionmaker that can pressure Israel at the negotiations table, and said the ideal way to reach results is direct dialogue between the concerned parties on the highest levels.

His majesty said he is ready to launch a Jordanian initiative to lift the siege on Iraq, but said the West should specify exactly what is demanded from Baghdad. He said some demands which call for changing the regime should be announced clearly to the world, which always emphasizes its full rejection of interference in the internal affairs of countries.

His majesty called for dealing with this subject with an open mind away from rigidity. He stressed the importance of dialogue with the United States after the failure of the European and Russian efforts to bridge the gaps in views on lifting the sanctions. [passage omitted]

On Relations with Israel, Iraq

JN0108084195 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 1 Aug 95 pp 1, 7

[Report by Ayman al-Safadi]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Amman—His Majesty King Husayn and His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hasan stressed Monday that Jordan's initiative to help end the suffering of the Bosnian people is motivated by humanitarian considerations that transcend political, ethnic and religious dimensions of the conflict.

King Husayn said that the initiative, which included humanitarian assistance as well as political contacts with Muslim and world leaders to help bring the Bosnian "tragedy" to an end, embodied "Jordanians' belief in human values and the necessity of respecting human rights and dignity."

Speaking to journalists during a meeting at the residence of Prince Hasan, King Husayn reiterated his call for an effective international action to end the hositilities in former Yugoslavia.

"If things continue as they are, the world will be pushed towards more tragedies, and worse situations could develop," King Husayn said.

His Majesty said that his effort to push for a termination of hostilities in Bosnia included contacts with Western and Arab and Muslim leaders, noting that he stressed to the ambassadors in Jordan of the five permanent members of the Security Council that the continuation of the "situation represents and insult to the world, to humanity and to human values."

The King said that Jordan will "do all that it can" to help alleviate the suffering of the Bosnian people.

"Refugee camps in (Bosnia) shook the world and brought back to memory images of the Holocaust," said Prince Hasan, who last week flew to former Yugoslavia in a joint Jordanian-Israeli relief mission to Bosnia.

Prince Hasan, who said that Muslims and Jews have been victims of the aggression in Sarajevo, said the crimes committed in the war in former Yugoslavia are "a reminder of the legends of the middle ages."

"The degree of hatred cannot be described," said Prince Hasan, who stressed that the only interest Jordan has in the Balkans is humanitarian.

Prince Hasan said a political solution to the conflict is the most effective way of dealing with it, adding that "the facts on the ground are not encouraging for an outside military intervention" outside the framework of the United Nations and other international bodies set up to deal with the conflict.

Prince Hasan warned against the escalation of hostilities in the Balkan region, adding that "all parties will lose" if the conflict is allowed to expand to other areas of the Balkans.

"We have for years urged the establishment of an international "zakat" fund that could have been used to help Muslims all over the world," the Crown Prince said. He said all Arabs and Muslims would have been more effective in extending help to their co-religionists had this fund been set up.

Prince Hasan spoke of the renewed European interest in the western Mediterranean region and urged a pooling of efforts to improve the quality of life in the area.

"We are at a point when we either enter a new era of fighting or go forward with the serious political initiative to protect the well-being and dignity of the people," the Crown Prince said.

During the meeting, the King and the Crown Prince addressed inter-Arab relations, the peace process, the economic situation in the Kingdom and efforts to realise the economic dividend of peace.

King Husayn said that Jordan's relations with Arab Gulf countries are improving and described as "good" relations with Syria and Egypt.

His Majesty reiterated Jordan's readiness to extend all possible support to the Palestinian people in their pursuit of their national rights.

The King said the Kingdom stresses in all forums the necessity of ending the suffering of the Iraqi people, adding that Iraq "has its importance and role in this region."

The King and the Crown Prince emphasised the sovereignty of the Kingdom and the independence of its decisions, adding that the policies Jordan has followed have secured its future and ended the threats that surrounded it in the past few years.

Responding to a question on the process of "normalisation" of ties with Israel, the King spoke again of his bewilderment at the use of the word "normalisation," saying that there is either a state of war or a state of peace and that Jordan and Israel have entered a state of peace.

The King said that human interaction between Jordanians and Israelis would dispel old fears and could be a factor helping the Palestinians in their negotiations with Israel.

The King criticised anew professional unions' involvement in political activities "at the expense" of their professional responsibilities.

He said the unions have no right to dictate norms of behaviour on their members, indicating his support of a legislative change that would no longer make union membership obligatory for members of the various professions.

Prime Minister al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir said Sunday that the government is "studying" legislation with view to introducing changes that would guarantee the freedom of choice of unions members.

Some unions said they would dismiss members who "normalise" ties with Israel.

Some laws ban professionals from practising their profession if they are not members of the unions. A decision by any union to dismiss a member for dealing with Israel will technically prevent him/her from working.

"Who gives the unions the right to judge people," the King said, urging the unions to focus more on raising the professional standards of their members and addressing the problems which the face.

The King said the majority of Jordanians are supportive of the Kingdom's policies, which are carefully articulated to serve and protect the interests of the Kingdom.

King Husayn urged the minority to respect the views of the majority in accordance with the principles of democracy.

"The people are thirsty for information," the King said, adding that some in the media are still "living in the old times" and urging newspapers to present credible material that offers an objective picture of events.

Addressing the economic situation, the King said what is important is not to "become frustrated and frustrate the people."

The King said the Kingdom will be able to realise the economic opportunities of peace within three to five years. But he stressed the need to make the necessary reforms at all levels, including the "worn out" parts of the bureaucracy, in order to render the Kingdom able to utilise the opportunities that will be offered.

Talking to representatives of the local media in the meeting that lasted for over two hours, the Crown Prince pointed to positive international sentiment towards the region but said that international investment will depend on the area's stability and regional cooperation.

"Market forces are encouraging but the political stands need to be changed," the Crown Prince said.

Prince Hasan stressed the importance of articulating well-thought out and comprehensive visions for the development of the region instead of narrowing the focus to limited projects and ideas.

He said Jordan is not seeking aid in the traditional sense but is pursuing cooperation in implementing regional projects.

"The slow pace of movement is not only by the international community. The donors are searching for solid, clear ground for investment," he said.

The Crown Prince spoke of the importance of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, which will be held in Amman in October, stressing that the burden of preparing for the summit rests with the government as well as the private sector.

The King said that "we need the initiative of the people. The government cannot do everything."

Israel-Jordan Border Crossing Procedures Facilitated

TA3007101395 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0900 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The procedures governing travel to Jordan have been facilitated. As of mid-August, Jordanians will be able to obtain entry visas at the Israeli Embassy in Amman instead of waiting at the border crossing. To facilitate the crossing of Israelis into Jordan, the border terminals will work longer hours. As of September, they will stay open until 2030. This was agreed at a meeting between Israeli and Jordanian representatives at a Jordan River crossing this morning. Our correspondent Yo'av Aviv notes that the meeting was convened after some 300 angry Israelis, forced to wait for hours at the border crossing over the weekend, caused a commotion at the site.

Paper Criticizes Israeli-Jordanian 'Joint Action'

JN3107173095 Amman AL-JAMAHIR in Arabic 1-15 Aug 95 p 3

[Editorial: "Joint Action With Whom?"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The exciting rush by Jordanian officials, not only in repairing relations with Israel but also in promoting them to a phase of joint action, poses thousands of questions.

It is clear that Jordanian authorities are exerting tangible efforts to disengage themselves from all commitments made in the phase that preceded the peace negotiations. This is taking place regardless of the achievements realized in the peace negotiations and also regardless of the obstacles and difficulties facing other tracks. These obstacles are impeding the achievement of a comprehensive and just peace in accordance with international legitimacy.

Within this framework, the boycott laws were canceled. Their cancellation has violated the unified Arab position which endorsed the Arab boycott laws against Israel. Within this framework, too, came the Jordanian-Israeli show of support for the Bosnian people, as if Israel stopped the role of an executioner so we would grant Israel a new writ of absolution and depict it on the international level as a model of those who defend justice and peace.

These clear examples are not the whole story. There are now calls for establishing a Jordanian-Palestinian-Israeli free trade zone. Such a zone unequivocally means setting up a new economic grouping which will be in favor of the stronger party. By the stronger party we do not mean a party that can have a pragmatic explanation of its conduct or a party that possesses media which can philosophize its attitudes. A stronger party means a party that has an advanced economic capability which is supported by prominent scientific and technical resources and by the imperialist financial centers in the world.

Those who advocate a free trade zone are the same ones who contributed to the notorious Harvard report. Many conclusions drawn from this report are being implemented on the ground.

The overwhelming tendency to establish a common ground for Jordanian-Israeli joint action poses serious threats to Jordan's destiny and future and isolates Jordan from its Arab surroundings. This defeatist climate cannot last. It is rather logical and natural for Jordan to be an effective member of its Arab surroundings and also an active element in joint Arab action, rather than being isolated from this kind of action.

Columnist Praises Ramat Gan Operation

JN3107145095 Amman AL-MAJD in Arabic 31 Jul 95 p 12

["On the Banks of AL-MAJD" column by Fahd al-Rimawi: "At a Crossroads"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Last Monday, the entire Arab nation witnessed contradictory stands. It had a rendezvous with joy and tragedy, approval and disapproval, admiration and surprise, ascension to peaks of martyrdom and fall into the abyss of scandal.

Last Monday, the entire Arab nation was overwhelmed with admiration for the brave martyrdom-seeking operation, carried out with both blood and dynamite in Ramat Gan by an unidentified hawk, but with a well-known goal. As a result of this operation, seven Zionist settlers were sent to hell, and 30 others to operating theaters in hospitals.

Last Monday, the Arab nation raged with anger, astonishment, and condemnation to hear all sorts of denunciations pouring out of the mouths of the Arab rulers and leaders over the loss of Zionists, who have all of a sudden turned into friends, or even brothers. These leaders prayed for mercy to the souls of the dead usurpers and leveled threats against strugglers and mujahidin.

It was very puzzling: Justice remained silent and falsehood spoke. The mujahidin kept silent and the capitulationists raised their voice. The names of martyrs have been withheld and the agents' true nature was exposed. The resistance factions failed to claim responsibility for the Ramat Gan operation, and the capitulationists competed to appease the enemy and denounce the operation, branding it in the press as a "suicidal" rather than a "martyrdom" operation.

Last Monday, we practically witnessed a political and linguistic coup d'etat. Surely enough, the writing was Arabic, but the expressions were more like Hebrew. The Ramat Gan "suicidal" operation will tomorrow become "subversive" and after tomorrow "terrorist." This is in line with the enemy's expressions and concepts, and is consequently the highest form of linguistic and cultural normalization. [passage omitted]

The leaders' weakness and capitulation do not necessarily reflect on people. On the contrary, Arab history has taught us, through a number of contemporary and ancient events, that face-to-face confrontation between the Arab masses and the enemies has always culminated in popular wars and legendary resistance that eventually led to victory, freedom, and independence whenever there were no agent Arab authorities in power. [passage omitted]

With every act of martyrdom like the Ramat Gan operation, we, as well as our enemy, become more convinced that the Israeli society is only a temporary scouts' camp that lacks the spirit of citizenship or patriotism. It is a scouts' camp that is terror-stricken and filled with contradictions. It lacks willpower and is inviable, unsustainable, and unable to provide the simplest requirements of security and political and psychological stability regardless of the technological weapons it possesses and regardless of the reconciliation and peace treaties it signs with Arab governments. [passage omitted]

King Leaves for Cairo Talks With Mubarak

JN0108094495 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0800 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] His Majesty King Husayn and Her Majesty Queen Nur left Amman for Cairo this morning on a short working visit during which his majesty will hold talks with his brother His Excellency Muhammad Husni Mubarak, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and ranking Egyptian officials.

The talks will deal with the bilateral, fraternal relations and cooperation, the Arab situation, and regional and Arab issues of mutual concern, led by developments of the peace process on all tracks, in addition to the economic summit that will be held in Amman next October.

His majesty was seen off by His Highness Crown Prince Hasan, their highnesses the princes, and ranking officials.

Sudanese Minister Arrives for Cooperation Talks

JN3107113995 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 0700 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Sudanese Interior Minister al-Tayyib Ibrahim Muhammad Khayr arrived in Amman this morning on an official two-day visit during which he will hold talks with Interior Minister Salamah Hammad on ways to bolster bilateral cooperation and benefit from the Jordanian expertise in the fields of public security and civil defense.

Khayr said fraternal bilateral relations are excellent and based on respect and fruitful cooperation, adding that these relations continue to develop in all fields.

He said his current visit to Jordan is aimed at getting acquainted with the local administration system, the Interior Ministry departments, as well as methods employed by the Public Security Department and the Public Civil Defense Department in terms of structures and training courses in order to implement what is suitable for their Sudanese opposite numbers.

King Meets Ukrainian Official, Accepts Invitation

AU2907161095 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 27 Jul 95 p 3

[Report by Ukraine's Foreign Ministry Press Service and UKRINFORM: "A Meeting With the Jordanian King"]

[FBIS Translated Text] On 24 July in Amman Husayn Bin-Talal, King of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, received Kostyantyn Hryshchenko, deputy foreign minister and head of the Ukrainian governmental delegation, who submitted to the Jordanian monarch Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma's personal message. The Jordanian king accepted the invitation of the head of the Ukrainian state to arrive in Ukraine on an official visit. The exact date of the visit will be coordinated through diplomatic channels.

In the course of the meeting that took place in the royal palace right after the arrival of the Ukrainian delegation in Amman, King Husayn expressed Jordan's striving to hold a political dialogue with Ukraine on a broad circle of questions, including those associated with the [peaceful] settlement in the Near East. The interest of both countries in establishing mutually advantageous trade and economic cooperation between the two countries was also emphasized.

The program of the visit by the Ukrainian delegation, which includes V. Kozakov, deputy minister of machine-building industry, and experts from other ministries, envisages holding negotiations in Jordanian Ministries of Foreign Affairs, Industry, and Trade, as well as meetings with Jordanian entrepreneurs.

Al-Hirawi Army Day Speech Notes Peace Stance

NC0108092895 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 0708 GMT 1 Aug 95

[Speech by President Ilyas al-Hirawi marking the Army's 50th anniversary at the Military School—live]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] Military personnel, through bold positions adopted by the country's leaders, Lebanon won independence on 22 November 1943. After negotiations with the French conducted on the Lebanese side by a committee chaired by our late judge, Yusuf (?Sharbil), a declaration was made on 25 July 1945 that the Lebanese Army would be under the authority of the independent Lebanese State effective from 1 August 1945.

The birth of your institution was the fruit of national independence. Your institution is the country's shield as long as it remains aloof from any sectarian or provincial temperament and political whims and polarization. [passage omitted]

Military personnel, the golden jubilee you are celebrating today is an honor and responsibility—an honor as you remain a bright feature of this country and a responsibility requiring you to remain true to the institution and set an example in performing the duty.

The State during the era of peace is ready to sponsor your institution. It tightened its belt to enable you to perform your tasks. We spared no effort to rehabilitate you, so great opportunities were open to you to undergo numerous academic and training courses abroad. Your naval units resumed operations at sea and your helicopters began to roam the skies. An agency was formed for military housing, a dream come true for all military personnel.

Military personnel, the supreme commander of the Armed Forces congratulates you on your achievements in the institution in terms of cohesion and reorganization and your sacrifices for and loyalty to the country. Greetings of reverence for your martyrs and greetings of pride to all of you. Rest assured that as your discipline increases, your fellow citizens' hopes in you increase. Your country looks at you and at all personnel and agencies of our security forces as you protect sovereignty to the last inch of land within our internationally recognized borders in the south and western al-Biqa'. Thus the will for liberation and the process of reconstruction will be complete and Lebanon will triumph. Congratulations on your golden jubilee and may God keep you for Lebanon. [applause] [passage omitted]

As my term in office ends, my conscience is clear about what I have accomplished in cooperation with successive governments, the Chamber of Deputies, and with the Lebanese people. [passage omitted]

Lebanese people, we have ended the war but have not completed Lebanon's victory. Three major issues remain. First, completing the liberation of our occupied land in the south and western al-Biqa' to preserve our entity. Second, reconstructing Lebanon's people, society, State, institutions, and provinces. Third, shaping Lebanon's role and standing at the crucial crossroads, in our region in particular and in the world in general. [passage omitted]

The process of the socio-economic renaissance necessitates the reform of every institution and administrative body. The return of a balance among the various executive, legislative, and judiciary institutions is a must to revive social and national welfare.

It is the national balance that guarantees political stability and it is political stability that represents the key for achieving economic progress. The social gap in the country weakens our national unity. No homeland could progress when the majority of its people are a burden. [passage omitted] We urge the brothers and friends, particularly the friendly European states and the United States, to support reconstruction and development so that Lebanon does not embark on this mission alone, although its sons have not hesitated to take part in rebuilding the homeland.

O Lebanese, the end of the war does not mean the restoration of well being; the end of the war spells opportunities to regain wellbeing. The institutions' organized work will achieve progress on every level. It is an established fact that security overwhelms the people's emotions and that freedom is stronger than the whims that can kill freedom and the achievements of the State in the era of peace.

O Lebanese, no to any violation of security under any pretext. Security is a must at this fateful turning point. Security is a must for the needs of the citizen and the homeland, the State, and society. There is no leniency in this regard. If we must choose between the loaf of bread and the homeland, we will opt for the homeland. Security comes before the loaf of bread and politics. Security is the key to obtaining the loaf of bread and ensuring freedom. There can be no freedom or bread without security. This would lead to the collapse of the homeland and that, regrettably, is what Israel wants. [passage omitted]

O Lebanese, The unity of the internal front is a guarantee for the defense of our sacred rights. The peace negotiations are passing through a critical stage that reveals the real Israeli intentions. We are prepared to achieve the just and comprehensive peace, but there can be no peace when our land is still occupied; there can be no peace when atrocities are committed against our kin and land and when our skies and territorial water are violated; and there can be no peace when our sons are detained in complete disregard for our independence, human rights laws, and international norms.

We expect the United States, the sponsor of peace in our region, to play a more effective role so that the just and comprehensive peace based on the UN resolutions can be achieved. No one can achieve his peace without Lebanon or at the expense of Lebanon. We adhered to the road of solidarity with the brothers, led by fraternal Syria under my brother President Hafiz al-Asad for the sake of regaining our land and in defense of Arab dignity. We will never accept Israel's occupation of the south, western al-Biqa', and the Golan Heights. There can be no liberation of the Golan before the liberation of the south and western al-Biqa' and vice versa. This is a pledge toward which we both are committed. [passage omitted]

O graduate officers, today you were decorated with the swords of the State in the era of peace on the occasion of the Army's golden jubilee. Your graduation today coincides with the celebration of 50 years of honor, sacrifice, and loyalty. All Lebanese wish that the promised future will make a united homeland. You should be loyal to your seniors and an example to your successors out of your dedication to the State and in its defense. Long live the Army and long live Lebanon. [applause]

Buwayz: Delayed Israeli Response Endangers Peace

NC3107164995 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz received doyen of editors Milhim Karam today.

Minister Buwayz stressed that Israel has failed to impose security and stability on its northern borders and its losses in the south [of Lebanon] equals all its losses in all its wars with the Arabs.

The foreign minister said that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin has so far not made a serious decision to achieve peace. He is trying to push some proposals and to improve them, but he has not yet made his final commitment to the peace process.

He added that the delay in Israel's response to the Arab demands, particularly those of Lebanon and Syria, does in fact pose several dangers.

Al-Hirawi, Al-Hariri Receive Syrian Vice President

NC3107162595 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Syrian Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam at B'abda Palace this afternoon. Khaddam was accompanied by Deputy Speaker [of Lebanese Chamber of Deputies] Elie al-Firzli; Major General Ibrahim Safi, commander of the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon; and Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, head of the security and intelligence branch of the Syrian forces operating in Lebanon. The conferees reviewed the current developments in Lebanon and the region.

Earlier, Khaddam visited Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri in Majdalun near Sidon to convey to him condolences on the death of his mother. The two held a meeting that was attended by Deputy Speaker Elie al-Firzli, Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz, and Brig. Gen. Kan'an. After the meeting, Khaddam declined to make any statement while Minister Buwayz spoke the recent developments in the Syrian-Israeli talks. Buwayz indicated that the dialogue [between Syria and Israel] still exists and will continue through other channels, perhaps on the level of ambassadors, to formulate a number of understandings which might be useful for application by military experts. Buwayz said we hope Washington will put more pressure on Israel and will not allow it to stall and derail the peace process.

President al-Asad's Army Day Message

JN0108074595 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0415 GMT 1 Aug 95

["Text" of address by President Hafiz al-Asad on the 50th anniversary of the Syrian Arab Army to the Armed Forces on 1 August; from the magazines JAYSH AL-SHA'B and AL-JUNDI AL-'ARABI—read by announcer]

[FBIS Translated Text] Brothers and sons within the ranks of our Armed Forces; O officers, noncommissioned officers, and valiant soldiers: On the 50th anniversary of the Syrian Arab Army, memory brings back a glorious history of our people's struggle since the beginnings of the 20th century. This struggle produced independence and the launching of the nationalist army. This day, which we are celebrating, is the outcome of the struggle waged by our people's generations, who defied difficulties. Thus, their patience and perseverance helped them realize hopes and goals. These are the generations that waged the battles of struggle, carrying the banner that has been passed from generation to generation so that it may continue to flutter aloft, seeking inspiration from the legacy of the forefathers and ancestors, and aiming to achieve unsurpassed glory.

Fifty years ago, a great objective of this struggle; namely, the launching of the Syrian Arab Army, was realized after a bitter struggle, during which our people confronted the colonialists, who did their best to prevent the launching of a nationalist army that champions Arabism, defends the homeland, and identifies with the people's masses. The first confrontation between our nationalist army and the colonialists took place in Maysalun. The Maysalun battle, in which the hero Yusuf al-'Azmah was martyred, was a giant upheaval that rocked the ground under the colonialists' feet. This upheaval lent great momentum to our people's revolutions, regardless of whether they broke out in the past or later. This helped escalate our people's revolution until the people's will triumphed, forcing an abysmal evacuation of the colonialists.

The Maysalun battle epitomized the slogan of martyrdom or victory. Well, the hero Yusuf al-'Azmah chose martyrdom. He had indisputable evidence of the imbalance in power between his fighters and the invading army. By his heroic performance, he sought to safeguard our military honor.

Since the inception of the army, our Army has undertaken to epitomize in its growth and development the hopes and goals of our people, and to be an ideology-driven army that champions these hopes and goals, defends them, and struggles to achieve them. Likewise, it has vowed to uphold the nation's causes and confronts its enemies. A large part of the goals it has sought to achieve has been achieved under the 8 March revolution. Under the Corrective Movement, it has been deservedly called an ideology-driven army that champions the nation's causes. Consequently, the size of the army has increased, and it obtained more sophisticated weapons. Moreover, it has consecrated a host of values and traditions inspired by our nation's ancient history and the principles cherished by our great party, the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party.

For the past 50 years, our Army, with all its weapons categories, has continued its advancement and betterment. It has waged honorable battles in defense of the homeland, to repulse aggression, and to aid fraternal Arabs. Thanks to its competent agencies, it has contributed to the construction and development of the homeland.

It is a pleasure to me on this auspicious occasion to congratulate you all, brothers and sons in all your posts and locations, regardless of whether you are on land, in the air, or at sea, and to bless the efforts you made last year and in previous years, which witnessed significant accomplishments scored by our Armed Forces in all their nationalist and pan-Arab activities.

Over the past 50 years, we have made large strides that have rendered the Syrian Arab Army a force to be reckoned with, a force working to promote national and pan-Arab interests as well as prosperity for mankind.

Our Army will continue to take the lead throughout the coming years in order to attain the glorious goals in which Syria and the nation take pride. It will continue to protect the homeland at all times, whether in war or peace time.

Brothers and sons: Syria will remain steadfast despite the negative aspects of Arab action. It will strongly uphold truth and reject falsehood. Our national unity, which is being further entrenched over the years, is the core of our steadfastness.

Our Army will remain, as it has always been, the faithful guard protecting the homeland. Its strength emanates from the strength of our proud people, who reject submission and humiliation.

I seize this opportunity to send in your name and on behalf of our people a greeting of respect and recognition to the pure souls of our righteous martyrs, the most honorable on earth and the most noble of people. They are the symbols of courage and sacrifice. I also extend a warm greeting to our steadfast families, sons, and brothers in all the occupied Arab lands. A heartfelt greeting to you, heroes, wherever you are, and also to your families everywhere in Syria.

The Lebanese Army today also celebrates its golden jubilee. We would like to seize this opportunity to extend a brotherly greeting to our brothers in Lebanon—president, Chamber of Deputies, government, and people. We warmly congratulate the Lebanese Army—command, officers, noncommissioned officers, and soldiers. We appreciate this brotherly army's honorable stands in confronting the Israeli aggression, and the efforts of its command to strengthen its unity and reinforce its pan-Arab orientation. We wish the Lebanese Army greater strength and prosperity in all areas.

Ties between the two brotherly armies are being further strengthened in the interest of both Syria and Lebanon. They will continue to defend the rights of the two countries and the interests of the Arab nation.

The fact that the two armies are celebrating their anniversary on the same day reminds us of the unity of our people's struggle in the two countries. This struggle has fulfilled the will of the Syrian and Lebanese masses by wresting freedom and independence and driving the occupier out of the two countries. This is a glorious anniversary that confirms the unity of struggle, history, and destiny. Our faith in God, people, homeland, and nation is unshakable. Just as we have done in the past, we will proceed now and in the future along the path of honor and pride with lofty foreheads, confident of our ability to liberate our occupied land and achieve the just and comprehensive peace that is aspired by new generations—peace that would put an end to aggression, occupation, and hostile expansionist designs. Peace be upon you.

[Signed] General Hafiz al-Asad, president of the republic and commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, Damascus, 1 August 1995

Al-Shihabi: No Bargaining on 'Full' Withdrawal

JN3107111795 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0850 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 31 Jul (SANA)—Lieutenant General Hikmat al-Shihabi, chief of staff of the Army and the Armed Forces has said that there is no room for bargaining over the full and complete Israeli withdrawal to the 4 June 1967 borders.

In an interview with AL-BA'TH on the anniversary of the Syrian Arab Army tomorrow, he said: Syria firmly emphasizes that what Israel has failed to realize through war and aggression, it will not be able to realize through negotiations.

He added that Syria has done all it can to render the peace process successful, but Israel continues to procrastinate and place obstacles under weak pretexts as was the case recently concerning security arrangements, which proved that Israel is not serious about leading the peace process to its designated objective, which is just and comprehensive peace.

Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi said Syria's acceptance to participate in the talks on the military level, which were held with U.S. participation and under U.S. patronage, was clear evidence that it is serious toward the peace process. However, Israel placed obstacles, fabricated crises, and changed the priorities of the military talks as it did with the talks on the ambassadorial level.

He said: Israel's continuation of maneuvers and deception will block the peace process. He stressed that Syria will not accept any partial peace and will only accept honorable peace that satisfies our people and that is supported by the masses of our Arab nation.

On the Army's 50th anniversary, Lt. Gen. al-Shihabi said: Our Army is the fortress of the nation, the symbol of its dignity, and the embodiment of its will. We will keep our Armed Forces in a state of high preparedness and capability, and we have introduced modern technologies and reached advanced stages of training.

Russia's Posuvalyuk Assesses Damascus' Expectations

TA2807094695 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew
0405 GMT 28 Jul 95

[Report by political correspondent Shlomo Raz]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Israeli-Syrian standoff remains unchanged. U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher met with Syrian Ambassador Walid al-Mu'allim in Washington two days ago and, according to information received in Jerusalem, the meeting did nothing to rescue the deadlocked negotiations. Political elements say Israel needs to receive a concrete Syrian proposal before the contacts can be resumed. Meanwhile, no meeting is planned between Ambassador Mu'allim and Professor Itamar Rabinovich.

A much more upbeat tone was perceived from a report Jerusalem has received from Moscow in the wake of Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalyuk's meetings in Damascus. The Israeli Embassy in Russia reported that Posuvalyuk had explained the Israeli political structure to the Syrian upper echelons. Surprisingly, he discussed matters pertaining to the Israeli coalition, opposition, and elections. Syria is apparently uninformed on these matters. Posuvalyuk further explained the time dimension to al-Asad — namely, that elections will take place in Israel and the United States next year, a fact which has a direct bearing on the fate of the negotiations.

The Russian deputy foreign minister deduced from his talks that Syria is interested in holding a political process and that the deadlock — which developed following Dennis Ross's talks in the region and the decision not to resume the military-level meetings — is merely tactical, and as far as Syria is concerned, a breakthrough is expected. This is Posuvalyuk's assessment as reported to Jerusalem.

Paper Defends Nuclear Talks With Argentina

JN0108104495 Damascus SANA in Arabic
0800 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Damascus, 1 Aug (SANA)—AL-THAWRAH has pointed to the efforts of Israel and those who support it to prevent the Arabs from acquiring atomic energy technology for civilian, scientific, and medical purposes under the pretext of safeguarding security and peace in the region.

The newspaper says that in addition to the contradiction in Israel's behavior revealed by this situation, especially the aggressive and unrestrained Israeli policy, it also reveals the Israeli and international double standards concerning this subject which pose a threat not only in the field of the Arab-Israeli conflict, but also in international relations.

The paper says that Israel is armed with modern conventional and nonconventional weapons, and that media and political campaigns are launched and practical measures adopted to prevent any Arab or Third World country from even thinking of developing its scientific capabilities in the atomic energy fields.

The newspaper adds that when the Israeli officials raise their voices and create a clamor over the mere news of Syrian-Argentine talks on cooperation in the atomic energy field for medical purposes, they forget all the West's support they receive to develop the nuclear energy technology for military purposes and the capabilities they have access to to manufacture the means for carrying nuclear weapons. The paper says Israel did not join any international treaty on nonproliferation or inspection of nuclear weapons.

The paper emphasizes that Syria, which is working hard to promote its economic infrastructure and achieve qualitative leaps in all areas of science and development, including the use of atomic energy for peaceful development, is committed to the safeguards regime enshrined in the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, given the agreement it has reached with the International Atomic Energy Agency [IAEA]. Syria also pledged to accept the safeguards that will be applied on all basic [masdariyah] and fissional materials used in all peaceful nuclear activities that are carried out in the country or anywhere under its control in order to make sure that these materials are not used to manufacture nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.

AL-THAWRAH says that developing scientific research in Syria in the atomic energy field does not at all conflict with its peace credibility and its intentions to establish just and comprehensive peace in accordance with the resolutions of international legitimacy and the known international commitments stipulated in the agreement with the IAEA. It stresses that advancement in all areas of development is the option of the future and is a decision that is not subjected to Israeli considerations which ignore Syria's call for making the Middle East a nuclear-free zone.

Afghanistan

Rabbani Proposes Joint Afghan-Pakistan Commission

LD3107190595 Kabul Radio Afghanistan Network in Pashto 1530 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] To remove the atmosphere of mistrust between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani proposed setting up a joint Afghan-Pakistan commission. BAKHTAR reports that this afternoon at a news conference attended by domestic and foreign correspondents, Rabbani said: During the Economic Cooperation Organization conference in Islamabad, the Pakistani prime minister said that a joint commission of both countries should be set up to assess the problems between our countries. Appreciating the cooperation of the neighboring countries, especially Pakistan, during the jihad of the people of Afghanistan, Rabbani added: Therefore, the establishment of such a commission to remove misunderstanding and the atmosphere of mistrust is necessary.

About the invitation given to Sardar Abdol Wali to visit Pakistan, Rabbani said: I am surprised that Pakistan could invite somebody who is envisaging a fighting plan against Afghanistan and expect him to contribute to the restoration of peace. In our opinion, the visit of Sardar Abdol Wali of Pakistan cannot help with the restoration of peace in Afghanistan.

The Pakistani foreign minister will be visiting Kabul in three days. About this five-day visit of Sardar Asif Ahmad Ali to different parts of Afghanistan, Rabbani said that talks would be conducted about whether his visit to the provinces would be necessary.

During this conference, Rabbani emphasized the solution of differences through talks and understanding. He said: The opposition shall forget about making excuses because they have not benefitted from fighting and will not. Such an opportunity shall be created for the people to decide their fate themselves.

On Mr. Mestiri's efforts, Rabbani said: Despite Mr. Mestiri's remarks, the Islamic state is ready to cooperate with him, and it shall be seen whether he has a specific peace plan.

Article Views Iran Bombing of Taleban, 'Alliances'

95LA0301A Paris AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI in Arabic 2 Jun 95 pp 32-33

[Article by Rahimallah Afridi: "Iranian Aircraft Bomb Taleban in Afghanistan; U.S.-Pakistan Axis Backs Pashtuns, Iran-India Axis Bets on Minorities"]

[FBIS Translated Text] The Afghan scene has witnessed another shift of alliances that threatens dangerous consequences in view of the international and regional affiliations of the new axes that have polarized the Afghan factions along ethnic lines. The defeat of the Taleban led Pakistan to persuade them to ally themselves again with the Hezb-e Eslami [Islamic Party]. Meanwhile, Iran abandoned Hekmatyar in order to play the Rabbani-Tajik-Moscow card in confronting "a U.S. plot being woven against Iran from the Afghan border." How did these new alliances arise? Who stands behind them? How will they affect ongoing conflicts in the Islamic republics, India, Pakistan, and Iran?

Peshawar—The Taleban movement is suffering a real setback these days. Having won victories and marginalized the two main opposition parties—Prime Minister Golboddin Hekmatyar's Hezb-e Eslami and the pro-Tehran Wahdat-e Eslami [Islamic Unity] Party led by 'Abdol 'Ali Mazari—the Taleban almost entered Kabul as victors. Suddenly, however, they were evicted from the capital, driven into its suburbs, and failed to emerge as a single military and political force able to take power. Recently they were defeated again after the Afghan Government pulled the rug out from under their feet in southwestern Afghanistan. Presidential forces drove them from many positions in the southwest of the country, while resuming their attacks on them near Kabul.

Unprepared for the new situation, the movement was moved to look for new allies on the complex and intricate Afghan scene. It opted for cooperating with the Hezb-e Eslami in confronting the government, which refuses to yield to Taleban's demands and conditions. What was so strange was that the Taleban movement itself had liquidated Hezb-e Eslami bases in the areas it had taken since its ascent last October. However, developments of the situation reshuffled the cards on the Afghan scene and brought the emergence of new alliances: first, the alliance of Hezb-e Eslami with the Taleban movement, backed by Pakistan and other countries; second, the Iran-backed alliance of Ahmad Shah Mas'ud and General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam. It should be noted that the new alliances have an ethnic basis. The first, which is Pashtun, is located mainly in the areas paralleling Pakistan. The second, which is minority-based (Tajik and Uzbek), is deployed in the north on the borders of these republics.

After the Taleban movement, facing an organized, trained army equipped with modern weapons and aircraft, was handed a defeat by Afghan Government fighters, the movement's forces retreated from many of their areas, especially in the southwest of Afghanistan, but they kept the positions to which they had withdrawn after their defeat in Kabul in March. Fearing that the loss of certain positions might lead to the undermining and final defeat of their enterprise, the movement's leaders began to form ties with Hezb-e Eslami under Pakistani pressure. A number of meetings took place between the two sides. Movement leaders such as Mollah Qotboddin and the movement's political adviser, Mollah 'Abbasi, met with Hezb-e Eslami leaders in Peshawar. According to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI sources, this culminated in a summit meeting between Hezb-e Eslami leader Golboddin Hekmatyar and the Afghan Taleban movement's leader, Mowlawi Mohammad 'Omar, in the southern Afghan city of Paktia. Hekmatyar had gone to the city several times to persuade its leaders, prominent Pashtuns who share his ethnic identity, to work with him. Reports say that thousands of Pashtuns swore allegiance to their leader Hekmatyar for an attack on the capital Kabul. Afghan sources have told AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that Paktia's Pashtun tribes sent the Afghan president a message threatening to attack the capital if he did not agree to give the Paktia tribal army responsibility for the capital's security. Rabbani's government naturally ignored the message, and Hekmatyar continued to win the tribes' support for his coming battle with the government.

Hekmatyar-Taleban Pact

The two sides, former enemies, are said to have failed in forming an alliance with the government. Hezb-e Eslami initially tried to form such an alliance on the ground that the Taleban were "traditional mullahs who did not want Islamic movement oriented Islamists to come to power, wanted to return the country to its traditional state," and rejected the Islamic extremism that Iran's ally Hekmatyar represented.

However, Kabul's refusal and its insistence that the Hezb-e Eslami rally to its banner made Hekmatyar lose hope for a return of a movement-based alliance against the mullahs. He, therefore, turned to the Taleban, whom he considers "a force headed for extinction and disappearance because it was not based on intellectual or organizational foundations."

As for the Taleban, the movement's godfather, Mowlana Fazl ol-Rahman, head of the Pakistani Association of Islamic Ulema, tried to convince them to turn to the government, make peace with it, and come under its cloak. However, despite several rounds of talks in Kabul and Peshawar between Fazl ol-Rahman, who has close relations with the Taleban movement because his movement supervises hundreds of the religious schools in which the Taleban receive their education, and the Afghan Government, Fazl ol-Rahman failed to reach any formula for agreement. It was said at the time that the government attacked Taleban positions in Kabul during Fazl ol-Rahman's talks with the government in the capital's presidential palace, angering Fazl ol-Rahman and the Taleban, who lost trust in the government.

This event spurred the Taleban to hand over a number of their positions in the Lowgar area near the capital. Hezb-e Eslami sources have revealed to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI that Hekmatyar's fighters have returned to important positions in Lowgar that they had left to Taleban fighters in February. According to analyses by political observers, Taleban intended by this plan to put the Hezb-e Eslami fighters into a confrontation and thus prevent the government from attacking their own positions. The Hezb-e Eslami fighters thus would be a kind of buffer between the Taleban and the Afghan Government. Hezb-e Eslami sources state that the Lowgar and Vardak provinces facing the capital now are under the control of Hekmatyar's group. If the coordination with Taleban continues, it means that Hezb-e Eslami has become more powerful militarily than before and now constitutes a serious danger to the Afghan Government. In particular, it will be difficult for government fighters from the minority Tajik ethnic group to hold the Chahar Asiab base (Hekmatyar's former stronghold), whose inhabitants are Pashtuns. If Hezb-e Eslami fighters establish themselves in Lowgar, across from Chahar Asiab, Hekmatyar's forces are expected to return to their base, which has been a focus of threat to the government for the past three years, since the fall of the communist regime in Kabul and the coming to power of the Mojahedin in April 1992.

Iranian Aircraft

In the view of observers, the events in Afghanistan reflect the conflict among regional powers and the cold war, which many think has irrevocably ended, except in this region.

Moscow wishes to maintain its control over the recently independent Islamic republics. Washington is trying to trim the claws of the Russian bear in its backyard because of the presence of gas, oil, and nuclear materials and because of other issues that arouse the Americans' interest, given their unease and alarm over increasing Russian-Iranian nuclear cooperation. Washington, therefore, wants to undermine the Moscow-supported alliance that joins the Afghan Government and the northern Uzbek General 'Abdol Rashid Dostam, who has held several rounds of talks in Moscow and Tashkent to form a new alliance to oppose Hekmatyar.

At a recent press conference in Peshawar, former Afghan president Sebghatollah Mojaddedi, considered one of the opposition's firmest pillars, said there was a "strong alliance between Moscow, Kabul, and India." Observers of Afghan affairs think that Mojaddedi wanted to revive thoughts of the conditions and circumstances of the cold war by indicating that this alliance targeted Washington, Islamabad, and the former allies of the Mojahedin.

On the other side, Islamabad recently resumed cooperating with its former ally Hekmatyar, having realized that the Taleban have failed to control the situation. There are also reports of a French effort to bring Mas'ud and Hekmatyar together in opposition to a U.S. scheme that Paris has been eager to leak, saying that it aims at fragmenting Afghan national unity and dividing the country into ethnic ministates. The new alliances clearly seem to be built on ethnic foundations: a Pashtun axis composed of Hekmatyar and the Taleban, with support from partisans of the Mojahedin during the cold war (Islamabad and Washington), and an axis consisting of Mas'ud, Dostam, and the dissident pro-Tehran Wahdat-e Eslami Party, with support from Moscow, Tehran, and New Delhi.

The new element of strangeness in these alliances is that Hekmatyar's traditional ally Iran has abandoned him in favor of Mas'ud. Diplomatic sources that have spoken to AL-WATAN AL-'ARABI state that Tehran intervened forcefully in the recent battles that erupted in southwestern Afghanistan across from its territory. Since the emergence of the Pashtun Taleban, Iran has expressed unease over the movement, which the Iranians fear because it represents the Sunni majority. This Iranian concern comes not only from fear for Afghanistan's Shiite minority—which is why Tehran prefers that the Tajik and Uzbek minorities, who would rely on such minorities as the Shiah and the Ismailis, come to power, rather than the Pashtuns, who will need no one in order to rule. More important, Tehran fears becoming the target of an international conspiracy that exploits the Afghan scene, particularly given the Taleban presence along Iran's border.

Diplomatic sources say that the Iranians sent about a thousand fighters who joined General Isma'il Khan, the governor of Herat province, which borders Iran, and an ally of the Afghan president, to thwart Taleban moves in areas that form part of Iran's vital zone facing its territory. Political and military observers say that Taleban positions recently were subjected to intensive air raids—as many as 15 in a day—raising grave questions about the party behind these raids. The Kabul government, in particular, does not have the capability to launch more than two or three raids a day. These observers state that Iranian aircraft are in charge of carrying out the raids because of Iran's closeness and geographic proximity to these Taleban areas.

India's Role

India for its part has supplied the Afghan Government with advanced military equipment, particularly in the areas of aviation, security, and intelligence. The Afghan chief of intelligence, General Mohammad Fahim, the figure closest to Kabul's strong man, General Ahmad Shah Mas'ud, visited New Delhi to coordinate cooperation between the two sides. Such cooperation and coordination have angered Pakistan's leaders. The Pakistani press in mid-March quoted sources it described as informed as saying that Indian intelligence was supplying its Afghan counterpart with extensive financial assistance and that Indian experts were installing radar equipment atop the tall television building in the center of the capital Kabul. Pakistani sources say that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto communicated her concern to Afghan President Borhanoddin Rabbani when they met in Islamabad in connection with the summit meeting of the Organization for Economic Cooperation. The sources add that the meeting was chilly and that the reception of the Afghan president was not at the expected high level.

India

Commentary Addresses 'Strains' in Ties With U.S

BK0108073795 Delhi THE PIONEER in English 29 Jul 95 p 6

[Commentary by former diplomat A. Madhavan: "Strains in Indo-US relations"]

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The bickering, name-calling and armtwisting seemed to be over at the beginning of 1995. Even die- hard America-baiters were pausing for breath, if not hailing the turn-around in the strainprone relationship between India and the US. There was a promise of better times in the air. The Prime Minister's visit to the US in 1994 and the row of high-ranking Americans visiting India seemed to augur a new awareness of mutually meshing interests and a community of objectives on both sides. In less than six months that optimism has been dissipated. Some Indians believed that Washington had revalued the potential of India as an economy and market of consequence, as a regional stabiliser and as a back-stopper of China's expanding sphere of influence. The old American grievances against India had not disappeared, but seemed to be kept in abeyance. Washington was believed to have switched to a quietly persuasive mode in preference to abrasive power-plays.

American demands on India were mainly as follows: (1) to open up the Indian market to American producer and consumer goods and to financial services; (2) to protect patents and trade-marks and future plant-genetic innovations; (3) to safeguard under external inspection all nuclear installations and materials; (4) to freeze the development of Prithvi and Agni missiles; (5) to negotiate with militant rebels in Kashmir and with Pakistan on Kashmir's future, without preconditions; (6) to protect the human rights of even terrorists abetted from across the border.

Some observers thought that the US had revised its assessment of the strategic importance of Pakistan after the Cold War was won. The US they believed, could afford to downgrade its link with Pakistan and also upgrade its link with India, without detriment to its interests in central and west Asia. But this was fallacious because, although the end of the Cold War altered all calculations impinging on Russia-Afghanistan, the strategic value of Pakistan did not diminish. For America it remains a moderate if not amenable Islamic state which can serve to dampen the fundamentalism of the entire crescent up to the Mediterranean. Further, the continuing instability in Afghanistan, the growing might of China, the chaos in Kashmir, the recalcitrance of Iran and the neverwaning risk of war between India and Pakistan made it imperative for Washington to strive for some leverage over Pakistan, especially its military. Add to this, the bleeding of Karachi and the stake of the Pentagon in the Indian Ocean (remember the use of Diego Garcia during the Gulf War), and the case for "the tilt" is unassailable.

Thus if the Clinton Administration is trying to (1) circumvent the Pressler amendment, (2) make light of Chinese M-11 missiles supplied to Pakistan, under the pretext of "not proven", and (3) play down Pakistan's instigation of terrorism in Kashmir, the justification lies in realpolitik. India's glitter has worn off. Maharashtra's second thoughts on the Enron Dhabol deal are a symptom of political parties vying with one another to be more swadeshi- patriotic than the rest in the pre-election year. Since competitive populism is the price we pay for democracy, it needs no think tank to guess that India's opening up is at an end for the present. "Ajar and no further" seems to be the order of the day. In strategic terms, the US may be viewing India as a liability more than an asset. India's continued opposition to the NPT [nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty], even as a lonely voice, after the US has gained a famous victory at the NPT review conference in April 1995, is understood but not condoned. Though we proclaim we are vindicated by China and France brazenly conducting nuclear tests, apart from the missile test of China off the Taiwan coast, it makes no difference to the fact that the US has succeeded in emplacing a nuclear regime of its choice through wide international consent. India has, sooner or later, either to flout it by going openly nuclear, or to accept it. The US can afford to wait, seeing that the option of defiance will be forbiddingly costly to India in political terms.

We tend to simplify the policies and attitudes of governments and countries into a bold, unilinear outline. But major powers and even middle powers carry on multiple lines of policy at the same time, so that various shades and attitudes can be accommodated without affecting the thrust of overall strategy. The US adopts a combination of hard and soft lines when dealing with countries as diverse as China, Russia, North Korea, Pakistan and India. We too practise confusion, less by design than from poor co-ordination.

For the present, negative factors have obscured the positive in American calculations on South Asia. Democracy as a common bond and shared value is of little relevance in the powerlines of diplomacy, but India can use it to diffuse the adverse impulsion of the US policy which is necessarily bifocal in regard to India- Pakistan. We can also use our kith and kin settled in America to better purpose.

Kidnappers Say 1 Western Hostage 'Seriously Ill'

*BK0108101695 Hong Kong AFP in English
1009 GMT 1 Aug 95*

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Srinagar, India, Aug 1 (AFP) — One of the five Western tourists taken hostage by Muslim separatists in the northern Indian state of Kashmir is "seriously ill," the militant group holding them said Tuesday [1 August].

Officials here said the group, Al-Faran, told a government negotiator by telephone that one of the hostages was "seriously ill" and needed immediate medical attention.

"The sick tourist needs immediate medical treatment, and if anything happens to him the government will be responsible," an Al-Faran spokesman was quoted as telling Rajinder Tikoo, a police officer with whom the militant group has been in touch for the past one week by telephone.

Tikoo confirmed receiving the Al-Faran message but refused to give details.

Al-Faran is holding two Britons, an American, a German and a Norwegian. The group did not specify who was sick or the nature of the illness.

The Britons, Paul Wells and Keith Mangan, and American Donald Hutchings were abducted in Kashmir's mountainous Pahalgam district on July 4. The German, Dirk Hasert, and Norwegian Christian Ostro were seized separately four days later.

Al-Faran, which is believed to consist mainly of Afghan mercenaries fighting to end Indian rule over Kashmir, has demanded the release of 21 jailed Muslim militants in exchange for the five. New Delhi has rejected the demand.

Last month, the group alleged that two of the hostages were wounded in a shootout with Indian troops. The government denied any such gunbattle had taken place.

Police sources said the latest Al-Faran statement may be a ploy to exert additional pressure on the Indian authorities to accept the group's demand.

But one police officer said the claim may not be fake.

"There are chances a tourist may be ill since temperatures have come down considerably in the woods (of the Kashmir Valley) due to heavy rains and snow," the officer said.

The kidnapping has been denounced by other Muslim separatist groups in Kashmir, India's only Muslim-majority state, and they have appealed to Al-Faran to free the hostages.

More than 12,000 people have been killed in the Muslim insurgency raging in Kashmir since 1989.

Troops Reportedly Kill 7 'Militants' in Kashmir

BK3107150795 Delhi Doordarshan Television Network in English 1430 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In the Kashmir Valley, seven militants were killed while trying to infiltrate into Indian territory from across the Line of Control. They were shot dead with an encounter with Army jawans [soldiers] in the Kupwara sector. Seven AK rifles and a large quantity of explosives and ammunition were recovered. Two other militants were killed in Doda District.

Pakistan Troops Reportedly Fire Rockets in Kashmir

BK0108070295 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] In Jammu and Kashmir, one child was killed and several head of cattle were injured when Pakistani troops fired three rockets from across the Line of Control at village Patrara of Rajaori District yesterday. An official spokesman told AIR Jammu correspondent that Pakistan troops fired three rockets which fell at Pathrara, (Panjrine), and (Tandekasi) villages of the district. Residents of the affected villages have expressed strong resentment over Pakistani rocket attacks.

Report Details Split of BSP, New Party

95AS0447D New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 4 Jun p 1

[Press report: "BSP Splits"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Lucknow, 3 June: 25 members of the Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] have broken their connections with the party and have established a separate party today. Mr. Dhaniram Verma has recognized the new party as BSP [Raj Bahadur faction]. All these legislators did not meet Mr. Dhaniram Verma together. He says they have met him in the last twenty-four hours individually and expressed their wish to be separate from the BSP.

BSP has 69 legislators in the legislature. The separated group needed 23 legislators to avoid being disqualified under the 'Change of party legislation'. With 25 legislators the party has been split. According to Mr. Dhaniram Verma the members of the BSP [Raj Bahadur faction] are Mssrs Raj Bahadur, Mohsin Mohammed, Arshad Khan, Umakant Yadava, Umashankar Yadava, Ram sevak Singh, Jokhulal Yadava, Former education minister Masud Ahmed, Sangram Singh Yadava, Shivram Singh Kushwaha, Rajbali Jaisala, Ram Khilawan, Safdar Razah Khan, Ram Achal Rajbhar, Ram Sajiwan Nirmal, Samai Ram, Jagannath Chaudhari, Rajendra kumar, Akshay war Bharati, Former education minister Shakir Ali, Ramjit Bharadwaj, Hafiz Irshad, Ishtiak Ansari, Fazallurrehman Ansari and Jawaharlal Diwakar.

Mr. Verma told the reporters that he has given official recognition to the new group of the former social services minister Mr. Raj Bahadur. Mr. Raj Bahadur has been with Mr. Kansi Ram for the last twenty years. Mr. Raj Bahadur and two of the top ministers from the Mulayam government were present when Mr. Verma announced his recognition of this new group. At that time not one legislator from this new group was available. Mr. Raj Bahadur said that by splitting the party he has tried to pay respect to Mr. Kansi Ram's principles only.

Mr. Raj Bahadur, the leader of the separated group has sent a letter to the speaker asking for fifteen days time to increase the numbers in his group. Raj Bahadur said that some legislators are not in the town and some others are being held by Mrs. Mayawati in closed doors. He claims that his supporters are approximately 60. Talking about the possibility of this new BSP group joining the SP and the possibility of legislative assembly being adjorned, he said that there is no possibility of adjournment.

Press Addresses Relationship Between BSP, BJP

Daily Addresses Future of 'Majority'

95AS0447C New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi
5 Jun p 4

[Editorial: "Mayawati's Government"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Finally governor Motilal Vora had to give the oath of Chief Ministership to Mrs. Mayawati. The newly elected leader of the BSP [Bahujan Samaj Pary] will have to prove her majority on 19th June. BJP's [Bharatiya Janata Party] 177 and BSP's 69 legislators together will reach a majority. It is a different matter to ask, how many months this BSP government made by the BJP in the Congress style will last? The BJP and the BSP had only one agenda and that is to remove Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav from power. Except for that agenda these parties do not have anything in common. Both the parties are trying to build up each other very much. And although with sixtynine legislators, the Mayawati government will depend for its life completely on the BJP's support provided from outside, the two parties have not bothered to support each others' policies. Even if they do, who will believe them? The internal differences will come out in the open, if not very soon, surely before the Parliamentary elections. Therefore it is believed that the life expectancy for this government is at the most for few months.

It was believed that the governor would give a chance to Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav to prove his majority in the legislature. A principle has been accepted by everyone after much experience that the legislature is the body to decide if a chief minister or a party or a group has lost its majority. The budget session of the Uttar Pradesh legislature was already called to begin 8th July. If the governor found this date to be too far then he could have easily called the legislature earlier and asked Mr. Mulayam Singh to prove his majority or face defeat. However, he had to leave this path because the BSP announced its separation from the coalition and Mrs. Mayawati staked her claim for the government with BJP support. Mr. Mulayam Singh and his supporters then became frantically active in breaking up the BSP. The way Mrs. Mayawati who was staying at the political guest house in Lucknow and her legislators were attacked in the day light on Friday and the way some of them were kidnapped after receiving severe beatings, it became clear that the workers and the leader [Yadav] of the SP would spare no efforts. The attack on the guest house was carried out in the presence of the police and there was no effort by the police administration to foil the attempt or to restore the peace. U.P. employees lives in fear of the mafia-like leader, Mulayam Yadav. Mrs. Mayawati had to ask the governor for her legislators and her own safety but the government paid no attention to the request coming from the governor's mansion. The speaker of the legislature, on Saturday had already acknowledged a separate BSP with twentyfive legislators with Mr. Raj Bahadur as its leader. These events proved beyond doubt that Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav will use the time available for proving the majority in the legislature by doing some legal and some illegal tricks to achieve a majority. He would not stop short of using violence or the police. There was not only an atmosphere of a cattle market for legislators in Lucknow but even all arrangements for kidnapping them and to keep them in jail were also ready. They had made power into an obedient cow that can be led by the stick and tied to their own party post. To allow this kind of approach to the democratic administration was like making a joke of democracy itself. In this situation, if the governor had given the time to Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav to prove his majority, he would have provided him the stick to lead the democracy to tie to his own party's post. After Friday and Saturday's shameful events, the governor had no way out to ask Mr. Yadav for resignation and to dismiss him when he refused to do so. Mulayam Singh Yadav had left no alternative for the governor. Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav was happy to be dismissed rather then to give his resignation. Now in Lucknow, there is a BSP government of sixtynine legislators which is supported by the one hundred and seventyseven BJP legislators from the outside. BJP has been able to break that coalition which had kept it from taking power in 1993. The break in the SP-BSP coalition will be useful to the BJP in next years' parliamentary elections but the removal of Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav will also stop the harm that he was doing to the BJP's organizing efforts in Uttar Pradesh. After this the BJP will able to claim that it is not only the higher castes' party but in Uttar Pradesh, it has also helped to establish the government of the oppressed classes. The strategy planners of the BJP think that by this action, especially in Uttar Pradesh and generally all over the country, they will be able to get support from the oppressed class. Last year the Congress (I) had not removed the government of SP and BSP because that would have been a step against the backward and oppressed classes which would have bad repercussions upon the elections in Andhra and Karnataka. Even then the Congress (I) lost miserably in both elections. It is likely that they will reap some immediate advantage in the arrangement but finally it will be harmful to both the parties. Governments come and go.

Editorial Views BJP Support for BSP

95AS0447E Jalandhar PUNJAB KESARI in Hindi 6 Jun p 6

[Editorial: "The Changing Appearance of Mayawati "]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] We had written in our June 4 article 'Last Breath' that BSP's [Bahujan Samaj Party] claim of being able to form the government with BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] support had some merit to it and looking at it from a just point of view, in Uttar Pradesh, there must be a Ms. Mayawati government with BJP support. Along with that we had written that if such a government is formed by Ms. Mayawati, the BJP would like to run it the way it wants to run the government. Ms. Mayawati will have to change for the support of the BJP. For unprincipled politicians land or country means nothing, only the chair [office] is important. The BSP government formed with the BJP support will not last long. The churning of democratic values that is going on will bring out as a result the realisation in people's minds that Multi-party system is not good for the country but a three party system can serve the country little better.

We understand, that by giving a chance to form the government to Ms. Mayawati the governor and the center, have satisfied a requirement for justice, it may be late in fulfilling the requirement and the BSP and the BJP had to push for it in the parliament. The spectacle of buying and selling of the BSP legislators and the way the SP and BSP legislators beat one another up, these shameful news items appeared in the newspapers. How much weight will the BJP carry in the BJP backed BSP government? Apparently the BSP workers who were singing the other day 'Jats and Muslims are brothers, Hindu society came from whither? ' and 'beat them and kick them' [higher castes] are the same BSP workers who after Ms. Mayawati's swearing in ceremony are now singing along with the BJP workers 'Kalyan Singh and Kansi Ram, Hail Lord Ram, Hail Lord Ram.'

Not only this but right after taking the oath of office Ms. Mayawati declared that her first job is to improve the situation of law and order. She also said that now she is not only the leader of the Bahujan Samaj but of all the people in the society and therefore she will work to improve the position of every one of all religions and castes. When asked what her opinion about the Manuists was, she replied that she is not against any caste or class but she is determined to remove the inequities in the society and try to work for the good of the whole society. She said that her government will provide safety to Muslims also and at the same time there is no need for the upper castes to be afraid. No one will suffer any excesses.

It is clear that, Ms. Mayawati, who sometime back was against all the higher castes, their modes of worship and even ancient Indian culture, to the extent that she even called the father of the nation, Mahatma Gandhi, the son of a demon, changed her tune as soon as she could get hold of her chair [Office] and her ways of talking and thinking have changed. To continue in office while getting BJP support, she will have to continue her new behavior and thinking. Anyway, if the BSP wants to establish a wider base of support and improve its image, it must remove the impression of being the party against all worship, against Indian culture and against the father of the nation which has been [the impression] generated with the use of insulting language by Ms. Mayawati.

The change of tone and thinking that we observe in BSP politics is not only limited to Uttar Pradesh only. It has happened in Maharashtra also. The Shiv sena president Bal Thackeray who was in favor of throwing out all the Muslims from the country before the coalition government of Shiv Sena and the BJP took power in Maharashtra has now turned a corner and says, "Only those Muslims who are not faithful to India have no right to stay here."

As far as political leaders' stance that "Country does not matter, what is important is the chair." is concerned, the events of Uttar Pradesh have provided them with a good lesson. As long as money and position were with Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav, twenty-five legislators from the BSP formed a breakaway group but as soon as the power went in the hands of Ms. Mayawati, 11 of them returned to the BSP and accused the former Chief Minister Mr. Mulayam Singh Yadav of trying to break up the BSP. It is not clear, how long the remaining fourteen legislators will remain separate from the BSP because their ultimate aim is to get the position and money.

Now what is left is to talk about the BSP administration led by Ms. Mayawati; it will not be a long lasting government. For proof we should hear the statement from the BJP's top leader Mr. Atal Bihari Vajpaee. He said that there is no question of his party endorsing Uttar Pradesh BSP policies, there are differences between the two parties and they will remain. The reason for BJP supporting BSP is only one. That is the BSP has promised us that its government will not be full of the same old bad habits as the Mulayam Singh government of the SP. The BSP leaders have promised that there is no reason not to trust them. Also, it is not good to have elections every year or two, right now the BSP is in a position to provide a stable government and it should get a chance.

Apart from that, the experience till now suggests that whenever a party government is formed with support from a party or parties from outside that government, it has never proved long lasting. Whether the government is of Chaudhari Charan Singh or of Mr. Chandra Shekhar. Depending upon unpredictable outside support no government has ever attained its goal nor can it. Ms. Mayawati government can be long lasting only if the BJP were to participate in the government instead of supporting it from outside which does not seem possible. In the present circumstances Ms. Mayawati government will work as long as it behaves as per the wishes of the BJP and as long as the BJP keeps on supporting it.

The churning for the democracy that we are talking about is mainly due to the fact that as long as the people do not see the failure of parties based upon caste or region, they will form immoral coalitions and their breakdowns. As long as they are not disillusioned by it they will not understand the importance of a three party arrangement for the success of democratic rule. It is our definite belief that for the interest of the country it is necessary to break up casteism, regionalism, linguism and all such small causes. As long as these small causes dominate, and the good of the whole country is not at the center of thinking, nothing good can come out for this society or this country. [passage omitted]

Article Views 'Friendship'

95AS0447B New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 7 Jun pp 1, 10

[Article by Hemant Sharma:"Mayawati's Government Exists Solely Based on BJP's Weakness"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Leaving aside her incarnations as a shadow chief minister, Mrs. Mayawati has become the real chief minister. However, there is indecision and apprehension about her government. The reason is, the two parties, BSP [Bahujan Samaj Party] and BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party], who seem to stand together due to this quick change of administration, are not natural allies. Their union is internally counterproductive. This internal resistance will make it difficult to run the government. This is what is believed in the political circles of Lucknow. The BSP and the BJP have completely different support systems in the society. Their support has remained firm only because of their dislike for eachother. Although both parties have changed their tunes after the change of administration, their political or economic programs do not work together. Yes their thoughts about Gandhi look like one, although for different reasons.

Nowadays the friendship between the BSP and the BJP has continued due to the anti-Mulayam support. Taking this, the BJP wants to transform its Hindutva card into the ace of total Hindu social unity. To BJP, this is the same understanding that Congress used to have in the sixties. Therefore the BJP would like to continue with this agreement at least till the parliamentary elections. BJP leader Kalyan Singh is saying that this government is more stable than the Mulayam government and that BJP will honestly try to let it complete its term. The BJP's eyes are focused on New Delhi. It can get legitimacy in north India with the support from oppressed classes. It is this goal that will make BJP keep the Mayawati government in Uttar Pradesh.

These days the contradictions between the oppressed and backward classes are showing up. The contradictions between the higher castes and the oppressed has been pushed into the background. Both the BSP and the BJP are in complete agreement that Mulayam Singh has done only Yadavization [of the administration] in the name of helping the backward classes. Probably due to that reason only that the Kurmies who are the second biggest backward caste after the Yadavas, played such prominent role in defeating the Mulayam government. In the state, a large section of the Kurmies are with the BJP, but one section is also with the BSP and some in Janata Dal also. Now people like Mr. Sonelal Patel, Mr. Jang Bahadur Patel, Mr. Ram Lakhan Varma and Mr. Ram Asre Varma, all Kurmi leaders, have taken the leadership in toppling the Mulayam government. This happened by caste pressures. The same caste pressures are also bringing the BJP and BSP together.

For these reasons both parties are moving away from their earlier thinking, so that their ideas do not seem to oppose one another. That is why Dr. Murli Manohar Joshi of BJP is saying that there is a change for the better in the BSP. It was the company they were keeping. Now that they have left the company of Mr. Mulayam Singh and joined BJP there will be some change in thinking. The BJP only wishes that there be a chief minister from the oppressed castes. Mr. Kansi Ram's thoughts are also similar. There is a change of attitude in the BJP. They have softened their approach toward the minorities. They will not be harsh with the oppressed castes, keeping their own interests in mind.

Mrs. Mayawati, who used to call the BJP Manuist [historical outlook supporting caste divisions], says that BJP has helped us in our fight for the interests of the oppressed. If they had not encircled the Rajbhavan, [governor's mansion] our legislators would have been killed. Mr. Kalyan Singh says that "It is wrong to say that we are against any religion or any caste. We have only one thing to say. Justice for all but special privileges to none. We have supported Mayawati to provide comfort to the oppressed in the society. It will be wrong to say that the BJP is a party of a special class or caste. The BJP deputy Chief Minister of Maharashtra is from an aboriginal tribe. The BJP Chief Minister of Gujarat is a backward caste person. We are trying to bring the slogans of social justice into practice."

Mrs Mayawati says it would be wrong to say we are against all higher castes; "Earlier I was the leader of Bahujan Samaj Party, now I am the leader of the whole society. I have to look after the interests of everyone and provide them justice is my first duty. After taking care of higher castes, oppressed castes, and Muslims my third aim is going to be Ayodhya."

BJP leaders, who have left [Sri] Ram to get hold of Kansi Ram are silent about this. Mayawati has declared on the very first day that the court's decision will be implemented. The BJP is silent on this matter because it thinks the Supreme Court will declare that the court cannot do anything in the matter. The new friends are thus trying to make the friendship deeper by changing their earlier thinking appropriately. Both are moving back so as to avoid collision.

This is the reason Mrs. Mayawati withdrew all the cases against Muslims for riots of 1992 at the same time she has also withdrawn most cases against the BJP supporters saying that these were started by Mr. Mulayam Singh as a revenge [tactic]. Two things are clear in all this. One, that it is very difficult for one government to survive five years. Two, the BSP is not in a position to fight and win majority on its own in the elections at present. That means the BSP is not discounting the possibility of an election at some time in the future.

BSP and Mulayam Singh had an election understanding of 60 and 40, as it was decided that the BSP would contest 40 percent of the seats and the SP would contest the remaining 60 percent. The legislative elections in 1993 were fought on the basis of this formula. However Mrs. Mayawati complains that Mr. Mulayam Singh never accepted publicly this formula for the Parliamentary elections. He would either keep silent or would avoid the subject. Mrs. Mayawati says that was one of the reasons for the breakdown of their understanding.

Now the BJP can harvest the oppressed castes' votes only if it carries the understanding to its logical conclusion. This means the two parties would fight the next [national] election, which is coming in six months, together. BJP which is looking at at the center [national government] may not be happy about giving up so many seats. Kansi Ram is also playing for the parliamentary elections. Therefore it is difficult to say how many seats Kansi Ram will leave for the BJP to contest. Although Kansi Ram can change his mind if he loses badly in other states. However he is only tasting the fruits of being in power in Uttar Pradesh. This is BJP's hope.

Future of 'Understanding' Viewed

95AS0447A New Delhi JANSATTA in Hindi 8 Jun p 12

[Unattributed report: "The Understanding Between the BSP and BJP will not Last Long-VP"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Former Prime Minister Mr. V.P. Singh believes that the understanding developed between the Bahujan Samaj Party [BSP] and the Bharatiya Janata Party [BJP] in Uttar Pradesh [U.P.] will not last for too long. There is no theoretical basis for this understanding. It is a question of strategy. The BJP believes that it will be able to please the backward class by making Mrs. Mayawati chief minister.

In a conversation with the correspondents, Mr. Singh said that the BSP should try to make its base stronger in the light of this fine opportunity. He also said that the BJP will lose its interest as soon as the BSP tries to implement its own policies and programs. The situation will be similar to when BJP started with the Ayodhya agitation as soon as National Front tried to implement the Mandal [reservation by caste] program. He said that he had made it clear in a meeting with the Chief Minister Mrs. Mayawati that soon she will have to face the choice between saving her gevernment and her social support. Mr. Singh called this press conference to clarify the situation about the differences in the Janata Dal [JD] arising out of happenings in U.P. Mr. V.P. Singh is facing pressure from within JD to at least remain a member of the political committee of JD. However, disturbed by the differences within the party, instead of staying within the political committee of the JD, today Mr. V.P.Singh is leaving New Delhi. Clarifying his own position he said that he looks at the happenings in the Uttar Pradesh as one more battle for social justice. He added further that the forces of social justice and secularism must try to separate the BSP from BJP as soon as possible. He said that it must be made certain that the BSP and the BJP do not fight the coming elections to the Loksabha [Parliament] together. He welcomed the announcement by BSP president Mr. Kansiram that the BSP will fight the elections separately About his meeting with Mr. Kansiram and Mrs. Mayawati he said that he wishes all the forces for social justice should come together on one platform. He said that BSP is also one such force. He would never wish that the gates of social justice be closed for BSP. He said that it must be possible to talk to them. Further he said that he would not wish that the BSP should fully merge into BJP. But he showed satisfaction in the announcement by Mr. Kansiram that even now he believes BJP is its enemy. He considers Congress as his number one enemy. He believes that there are some differences of opinion in JD, as to how to handle the BSP government. JD does not want to be against the backward classes, however it would like to honor the views of its friends in the National Front and the Left Front also. In this matter the JD is facing some political difficulties. Its state unit and other major leaders have shown views contradictory to one another. However he hopes that these difficulties will disappear when they meet in the political committee and talk further. He said that he would wish that the Samajwadi Party [SP] would also join the fight for social justice. In answer to another question he said that he wishes that inspite of their differences the SP and the BSP would come closer to eachother. In answer to the question; "Will you ever welcome Mr. Mulayam Singh in the National Front?", he replied that there is no green signal from Mr. Mulayam Singh yet. He is one of the forces for social justice. About his own role in the toppling of the Mulayam Singh government he said that the Mulayam government fell mainly because of its own internal contradictions. The BSP had informed all parties that it is taking away its support from the government. He had himself known it earlier. The Janata Dal had nothing to do with the toppling of the Mulayam government.

Iran

Daily Views French Oil Accord, Clinton 'Plan'

NC3107134795 Mashhad KHORASAN in Persian 22 Jul 95 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Conoco-Shell-Total: Who Are the Winners, Who Are the Losers?"]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The agreement signed by the National Iranian Oil Company and France's Total Company on expanding the Sirri oil fields was yet another blow to Clinton's economic embargo on Iran. This $600-million deal was signed as Washington is working hard to convince the West to stop cooperating with Iran. But the international considerations of Total's agreement with Iran are so extensive that the White House had to react.

By pulling U.S. companies, namely Conoco, away from cooperating with Iran, Washington hoped that the European companies would follow suit and respect the embargo. The British-Dutch Shell Company refused to cooperate with Iran in the Sirri oil field deal. This gave Washington politicians fresh hope. But although Washington claimed that Shell abandoned the bid in response to its pressures, the company announced that it withdrew because of Iran's difficult conditions for signing the agreement. Oil industry sources have said Shell apparently tried to secure easier terms than those stated in the Conoco agreement which, according to Iranian oil sources, formed the basis of the agreement with France's Total.

Our petroleum minister has stated that the expansion of the Sirri oil fields is the first of 12 projects planned for the Second Plan for the expansion of Iran's oil resources. Also, he described it as a good pattern that will be applied to expanding other oil fields as well. [passage omitted]

Thus, Clinton's plan failed even before it started, and the European companies that filled in for the U.S. companies are even working to surpass them in the race.

The truth is that Iran is strong enough to deal with any western company that it wants to. Economic interests dictate that these companies too do not sacrifice commercially for the sake of the selfish attitude of the White House.

Therefore, we can conclude that Clinton and the Senate's hasty act in approving the bill on Iran's economic sanctions has only hurt U.S. companies and has even helped to expand Iran's ties with Europe. Americans, who see themselves as the main losers, are working to prevent the continuation of extensive Iranian-European cooperation.

But the future will show whether Europe will ignore its economic benefits or not.

Until now, events have been disappointing for Washington.

Iran is becoming stronger every day, and whether Americans want to or not, they will have to accept that if the White House does not want to be the object of further worldwide ridicule, it should logically review its extremist policies.

'Propaganda War' Said Due to Clinton-Pahlavi Talks

NC0108074795 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 25 Jul 95 p 2

[From the "For Your Information" column]

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] U.S. President Bill Clinton's meeting with Reza Pahlavi and the criticism by the Monafeqin [hypocrites— pejorative term for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, MKO] grouplet have intensified the propaganda war between the monarchists and the leaders of the monafeqin.

The venal meeting two weeks ago between the U.S. President and Reza Pahlavi in a restaurant was described as a casual meeting by the White House spokesperson. Iranian grouplets abroad— particularly the monarchists and the monafeqin—have focused great attention on it.

The office of the little prince of Iran has not yet reacted. But the monarchists have described the meeting, the first of its kind since the victory of the revolution, as important and have used it for propaganda purposes.

One day after news of the meeting was published the monafeqin issued a statement in English in Paris, criticizing it and expressing doubts about whether it was casual.

The monafeqin described the meeting as a sign of America's hostility toward the popular revolution of Iran (!), saying this meeting with the heir to the past dictatorship simply disgraced the United States.

This reaction intensified the propaganda war between the monarchists and the monafeqin. The London-based KEYHAN (a promonarchist weekly), which refers to Reza Pahlavi as the Iranian monarch, strongly condemned the monafeqin's statement in its most recent editorial. Commenting on this statement, entitled "A Fig Leaf," the newspaper's editorial staff wrote: "Impudence is an extremely mild word to use to describe the way the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization treats the opposition." [passage omitted]

The newspaper added: "You, who are light years away from power, display such sensitivity toward a brief meeting. Assuming that, in the very improbable case, you do come to power, what will you do with the heterodox? Should we believe your empty promises? You say you will need only six months after the overthrow of the regime to return freedoms to Iran. We say that six days will be more than enough—not to return freedoms, but to uproot every sign of them."

Rebel Radio Assails Charges on Tehran Explosions

NC0108085095 (Clandestine) Voice of Mojahed in Persian 0600 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] AFP has reported that the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization [MKO] issued a statement on Sunday [30 July], saying the MKO categorically condemns the explosions in central Tehran. In a false report, the news agency of Khomeyni's regime attributed the explosions on Saturday night to the Mojahedin. But this is not the first time Khomeyni's regime has attributed such crimes to Iran's resistance forces in a bid to distort the face of the resistance.

Referring to disgraceful calumny by Khomeyni's regime against the Mojahedin, AFP added: Iranian regime officials systematically identify the MKO as responsible for every bombing in the country.

REUTERS too reported that the MKO has denied any responsibility for the explosions.

But [word indistinct] BBC again displayed meanness toward the Iranian people and resistance and tried last night to attribute the criminal bombings to the Mojahedin. The BBC said these bombings may have been an act of vengeance for a missile attack on a MKO base in Iraq. Khomeyni's regime has revealed little on its radio, television, and press, fearing disgrace, but the BBC has reported events on behalf of the clergymen and again extended support to the helpless ruling clergymen. It very maliciously refrained from mentioning the MKO statement issued in Paris condemning the criminal bombings.

Article Views Relations With Iraq, Trade Ban

95LH0198A London AL-HAYAH in Arabic 11 Jun 95 p 11

[Article by Waddah Shararah: "Agencies of Khomeynist Iranian Policy...In the Balance of Containment and Embargo"]

[FBIS Translated Text] Despite being postponed several times over the past several months, the visit of Iran's foreign minister to Iraq did take place and was successful. While the Iranian Foreign Affairs Ministry competed for the anticipated visit—the first undertaken by a high-ranking Iranian political figure to the enemy with which the long war was fought (a sign that the Khomeynist revolution has been reined in and its defiance dulled)—the visit was confined to a technical subject: the drawing of the borders between the two countries. Iranian sources hint at the likelihood of a meeting between the Iraqi and Iranian presidents. It would be unthinkable for a summit between these two men, if it were held—or even if it were limited to talk—to be merely technical and border related.

Whether the prediction is correct or just a rumor, there is no doubt that what has brought the Khomeynist republic and Saddam's regime together for some time requires more than a presidential summit. The recent U.S. decision to ban U.S. firms from doing business, even indirectly, with Iran, crowns the policy of "dual containment" and actually dates back to the aftermath of the second Gulf War, though it was late in being named, in early 1993. While its expected lethal results have not yet manifested themselves, the U.S. resolution has united some aspects of conditions in both countries, which might speed up their political reconciliation. Without it, of course, there were many obstacles.

The United State's economic decision on the ban—which today is exclusively a U.S. decision—will not push Iran into a famine, nor will Iran's health conditions collapse, or the rate of infant mortality rise precipitously. It may not lead, at the beginning, to the supremacy of the black market and political-economic gangs over the needs and trade exchanges of daily life as is the case in Iraq, but there is the loss of the buyer of one-quarter of Iran's oil production—600,000 barrels per day, and $3.5 billion per year (at 1993 prices)—and the hesitancy of other purchasers to buy the share the "Great Satan" consumed. It is hard for Leader of the Revolution Seyyed 'Ali Khamenei to respond by saying "the Iranian state is not affected by the interference of the United States." It is also hard to believe head of state Seyyed Rafsanjani when he hastens to assure Iran of its power and immunity.

Returns in the oil trade with the United States are not calculated in money alone, nor are they compensated by other returns, fully or in part, because the oil market is a supply market, despite the restrictions on Iraq. The 3 or 4 billion that went into the Iranian Treasury from sales to this remarkable and despised customer provided Iran with such commodities as oil facilities, spare parts for these facilities, maintenance equipment, pressure equipment regulating the network for residential gas distribution, jet fuel, computers used in airplanes and trains, and public works drilling equipment.

This equipment, which comes from U.S. factories and large firms such as Boeing and General Electric, Caterpillar, IBM, and DEC, cannot be replaced by anyone else, and alternative sources are not easy to find. Hence the ban branches out, and buying from a parallel market is exorbitantly expensive. The currency market's competition to the U.S. decision—boosting the price of the U.S. dollar on the Iranian market from about 2,500 to 7,000 rials, before effectively closing it off and monitoring it politically and for security purposes, investigating dozens of countries despite its unfeasibility—was merely a practical assessment of the results of the ban. It is like the Iraqi currency's explosion following the outcome of the reports of the special UN committee assigned to eliminate Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Both positions, Iraq's and Iran's, toward the international community seek to be one. Both regimes reckon it is within their power to follow the domestic, regional, and international policies they please without observing common standards, with the excuse that these standards were imposed by big power interests on small countries and that the big powers violate these standards when they do not suit their interests. Both the Khomeynist and Saddamist regimes want from all of the global community, especially these big powers, to limit its relations with them to economic ones according to profit and loss accounting, without any political accounting. Both regimes unashamedly combine the call to limit dealing in profit and loss and strengthening it, with criticizing the victory of this accounting logic over global economic relations. What both regimes want from the international community—a name far from accurate and at times far from reality—and against all logic, is for it to help them to violate the standards it is striving mightily to formulate, to achieve unanimity, and to put into universal effect. The first thing desired by the governments holding power in the two oil countries, rich in that precious resource, is weaponry enabling them to change the existing balance of power and fixed realities, and to protect this weaponry from likely and expected responses—just responses, in most instances—to take the initiative in deliberate violation.

While Saddam Husayn's move to invade Kuwait may be a simplified example, even a caricature were it not for its grave consequences, Iranian policy appears to be more complex. It follows the Soviet model rather than the German one that influences the Iraq of Saddam Husayn. Hence the Iran of Seyyed Khamenei shuns the initiative for a public, scandalous act. It is acting to establish positions and "rights" in its immediate area more than it is acting to expand. Its heavy weapons and naval weapons are supposed to defend its coasts and ports, and from these coasts and ports to the Strait of Hormuz, the most precious sea passage in the world, and the three islands of the United Arab Emirates, being used as the Strait's guard post.

Atomic weaponry is disguised as electrical reactors and generators, civilian and peaceful—were it not for secondary details such as a gas driven generator which the buyer and the Russian vendor work together to keep quiet. Generator sites are multiplying in remote areas far apart from one another. In this framework, relatively large numbers of practical schools for specialized technicians are being established—for about 5,000 technicians, according to French sources. This number far exceeds the number required for ordinary maintenance of generators. When the trainers of these schools were Soviet atomic maintenance technicians, before the fall of the Soviet Union, it was thought, without great offense, that the object of the training was what those technicians long spoke of and worked in.

Turning to Iranian foreign policy, relations through local networks are prevailing over conventional and well-known diplomatic relations. The closest circle is that of the Shiite groups who share the same sect and creed as Iran, and these are spread throughout Afghanistan, Pakistan, Azerbaijan, some Gulf countries, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, and Turkey. Iranian policy sends Shiite groups to most of these countries, on various pretexts—most, that is, with the exception of Syria so far—demanding broader and wider-ranging "rights" than those inherited by balances of power. While this policy generally led to national sectarian conflicts and to the weakening of the countries and societies where these took place, Iran's "internationalist" and local employees are keen on their policy characterized by liberation, resistance, revolution, and Islam. The second circle is that of political-military movements or national-religious movements (and the national and religious combination automatically produces military and terrorist acts). This circle is a mixture of relations greatly varied in their powers. They include sectarian organizations strongly allied with Iran, politically or religiously, such as Hizballah in Lebanon, the Islamic Movement in Bahrain, the Unity Party in Afghanistan, Hizballah in Kashmir and Karachi, and the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, and includes valuable organizations that grew independently of Iran and Khomeynism, as is the case in Egypt, Gaza, Sudan, Algeria, Syria, Iraqi Kurdistan, Turkey and some of the Gulf states, plus some Muslim communities in European countries, the Americas, and Africa. The Khomeynist government's relations with these organizations fluctuate between direct leadership and deliberate exploitation on one hand, and general support and political and "philosophical" coordination on the other. Both combine in third cases such as wretched Iraq.

Khomeynist policy reckons that these belts and circles, in the short run, are strengthened by the Western deterrent, not confronting it with a minimum of coordination (which is the least description, when a German cabinet minister demonstrated the efficacy of dialogue with the Khomeynist government, saying: "Had it not been for dialogue, we would not have succeeded in freeing our hostages"). The Khomeynist government is sold Russian and Chinese weapons and nuclear reactors in exchange for its silence on Russian and Chinese policies in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Chechnya, Sinkiang, and Iraq. This is the weakest sort of trade. It appears unhesitating to trade off Khomeyni's neglected fatwa against Salman Rushdie's in its desire for commerce and profit with some Europeans.

Khomeynist policy assumes, in the era of Khamenei, that short-term prevention grants long-term immunity. Until it succeeds in achieving unconventional armament, it is unsheathing its political and military networks and media relations throughout the rest of the world, threatening to use them to respond to operations targeting it directly, such as the local military response like the Jewish state's attack on the Tammuz reactor in the summer of 1981, and such as the global mobilization in response to Saddam's aggression against Kuwait.

It certainly would not commit Saddam Husayn's folly in stopping at Kuwait's international borders if it were to decide upon some invasion. The comparison with Soviet policy, on the eve of the second war and following it, is useful: what Iran's Khomeynist policy is preparing for is not a blitzkrieg or brief war, locally, which would quickly strip it of its strategic protection. It reckons it is preparing—and not contesting in this matter the vast difference between the intention and the goal—to possess means and capabilities, to start the steamroller in the manner of Stalin's military, and seize control over one of the most crucial regions of the world, economically, if not politically and culturally.

Saddam Husayn and his policy appear, compared to this lofty "project," very humble and shy. U.S. policy appears, as Israeli Foreign Minister Mr. Peres remarked in his interview with AL-HAYAH, to be unbalanced and inflexible. It makes a man equal to a political and strategic plan enjoying the support of some of the religious, sectarian, and national groups. The truth is that the matter has not eased all U.S. policy. Some of it, in the words of an aide to Mr. Warren Christopher, still seeks to negotiate with the Khomeynist government in Iran—seeks a truce and "coexistence." This is the U.S.'s Soviet-style face, for U.S. policy influences coexistence with a power with reasons for grievance against confrontation, especially as U.S. policy shares the power capable of hurting some of its illusions in itself and its power, but the economy, pulled along by political and social movement, had experience with totalitarian parties opposed to communism while it was experiencing communist tyranny itself. When the second leader and the velayat-e faqih says that "Iran's Islamic development is a patriotic duty" and nearly says that development is a legitimate individual duty, he proves—as there is no one to respond—that capitalist eternity is digging its own deep grave. So what ought the "Satan"—great or little—do but wait for him to shout, along with Messrs. Marx and Engels, at the end of their famous *Manifesto*: "How well you dig, O ancient eternity!"

Paris Reportedly Seeks Ties With Northern Province

LD2907143195 Tehran IRNA in English 1401 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Sari, Mazandaran Prov., July 29, IRNA — The French ambassador to Tehran, Jean Pierre Masset here on Friday [28 July] expressed his country's readiness to establish economic and cultural relations with Iran's northern province of Mazandaran.

In a meeting with governor-general of the province, 'Ali Asghar Geranmayeh, he described Tehran-Paris relations as positive and excellent.

Geranmayeh said the province is a very beautiful green area with high tourist attractions.

Masset visited the northern province on his week-end vacation.

Commercial Agreement With Morocco Detailed

LD3007165095 Tehran IRNA in English
1635 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA — Iranian Commerce Minister Yahya ol-Eshaq and Maghrebian Minister of Commerce, Industry and Privatization Driss Jattou signed a commercial agreement here on Sunday [30 July].

The agreement envisages cooperation in the fields of commerce, banking, oil, industry, power and energy, mines, water resource management, housing, agriculture, fishing and fishery, handicrafts, telecommunications and post.

Soil and phosphate fertilizer commercial contract is also included in the said agreement.

The two sides have also held preliminary talks for conclusion of two more agreements on mutual aerial and sea transportation.

Jattou said at the session for inking the agreement that an agreement reached between the two sides would make Iranian and Maghrebian private sectors further active.

Rafsanjani Offers Libya Aid To Solve 'Problems'

LD3107171395 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
1630 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani declared Iran's readiness to help Libya solve the problems resulting from that country's economic blockade.

Speaking at a meeting today with 'Izz-al-Din al-Hinshiri, the Libyan communications and transport minister, the president stressed: The Islamic Republic of Iran would like to help Libya in the difficult conditions facing the people of that country. We are prepared to place at Libya's disposal our successful experience in the technical, industrial, and economic fields.

The Libyan communications and transport minister conveyed to the president a verbal message from Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi about Libya's desire to expand ties with Iran.

Describing the agenda of his trip to Iran, he said: What I have seen in some Iranian industrial centers, at Bandar Abbas and the holy Mashhad, and the Sarakhs railway testify to Iran's outstanding progress in industrial and scientific fields. I found that progress very interesting.

Minister Returns From Visit to Bosnia, Croatia

Views Discussions, 'Solidarity' Week

NC0108061295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian
0330 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Foreign Minister Velayati, who went to Bosnia and Croatia to examine the Bosnia-Herzegovina issue and recent developments in the Balkans, returned to Tehran this morning.

The Central News Unit reports that, referring to his discussions with Croatian and Bosnian officials, the foreign minister stated at the airport: In these meetings events in Bosnia were studied along with ways to send the Islamic Republic's humanitarian assistance to the Muslims in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

Referring to the week of solidarity with the Bosnian people, the foreign minister said: This meeting was aimed at declaring support for the Bosnian people and at studying their needs. Velayati added: The meeting with the Bosnian president studied the decisions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC] Contact Group and the topics on the agenda of the OIC members' meeting in early Shahrivar [month beginning 23 August] in Malaysia.

Further on Minister's Remarks

LD0108072695 Tehran IRNA in English
0709 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 1, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati returned home from Bosnia early Tuesday [1 August] morning at the end of his one-day visit to the republic where he discussed the latest developments with Bosnian president and foreign minister.

Speaking upon arrival, Velayati said his visit was aimed at being informed of Bosnian situation after the recent developments and also conveying sympathy of the Iranian nation during the solidarity week with Bosnians.

In his one-day stay in Mostar, Velayati met with President Alija Izetbegovic and his Bosnian counterpart Muhamed Sacirbegovic with whom he discussed continuation of Iran's diplomatic efforts in bilateral, multilateral and international fields.

He also held two rounds of talks with his Croatian counterpart Mate Granic and exchanged views on establishment and boosting of defensive cooperation between Bosnia and Croatia to defend areas under the Serb attacks, the city of Bihac in particular.

Velayati told IRNA that Iran has launched a new multilateral initiative between Bosnia and Croatia on the one hand and Bosnia and Greece on the other.

He underlined the need for being informed of the latest viewpoints of President Izetbegovic in order to find out whether the recent decisions of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) could meet demands of Bosnian Muslims. The OIC member states decided in their recent meeting in Geneva to overlook the United Nations arms embargo against Bosnia and hold a joint military and political meeting to support the Bosnians.

As for his talks with Granic, Velayati said they discussed strengthening of Bosnia-Croatia cooperation on jointly defending Bihac and other areas.

Efforts have been made to remove past disputes between Bosnians and Croats in order to pave the way for new agreements for joint defensive cooperation between the two sides, noted Velayati. He stressed that in the first round of his talks with Granic which was also attended by Bosnian foreign minister, the participants confirmed such defensive cooperation.

In the second round of Velayati's talks with Croatian officials, continuation and boosting of defensive and political cooperation between Bosnia and Croatia as well as their cooperation with Iran was described as positive for bringing in peace and security in the region and particularly preventing more human casualties in Bihac.

Velayati held a separate meeting with Granic in Split, Croatia, where he briefed the Croatian official of his talks with Bosnian president. He later left Split for Tehran.

Holds Press Conference on Visit

LD0108114895 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The press conference given by Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati after his return from a one-day trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia is our first news report for this hour. Our correspondent Forughi reports:

[Forughi] Foreign Minister Velayati spoke this morning to local journalists and representatives of the news media of other countries about the outcome of his trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina and Croatia and his meetings with the officials of those countries. He said the outcome of the trip was positive. [passage omitted]

Mr. Velayati added that the Iranian Foreign Ministry director in charge of the Middle East and North Africa will be delivering our country's foreign minister's written message to Dr. Abdellatif Filali, Morocco's prime minister and foreign affairs minister, who is currently secretary general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference [OIC]. The message explains the outcome of the steps taken to implement the recent understandings reached by the OIC's Contact Group to solve the Bosnian crisis.

Our country's foreign minister pointed to the doubts felt by Bosnian and Croatian officials toward the effectiveness of the UN peacekeeping forces. He added: These forces have shown that they are not able to establish and maintain peace and that they have not done anything to bring about peace. He hopes that Islamic and other countries who would like to see justice carried out should take some actions in this regard.

Mr. Velayati said: The best way to resolve the Bosnian crisis is for all those who are in a position to be in any way effective, to help in bringing an honorable end to the crisis in a manner that will fulfill the rights of all groups, end tyranny, and return all occupied territories to their original owners. Otherwise, the Bosnian people should have the right to defend themselves and attain their rights.

He explained: As an Islamic country, we are prepared to cooperate with any country that wishes to help resolve the crisis of Bosnia-Herzegovina in an honorable manner and wishes to participate in the establishment of a just peace.

Mr. Velayati considers that cooperation between Muslims and Croats and their coming closer together constitutes a turning point in developments in the Balkan region. He hopes that this will bring some of the countries that are effective in the Balkan crisis to their senses and make them realize that a nation cannot just be wiped off the world's map.

Mr. Velayati added: In the tripartite session in Split of the foreign ministers of Iran, Bosnia, and Croatia, the nature of the Bosnian people's needs and the assistance they require were identified. He said that Bosnia today needs heavy defense weapons as deterrents. He added: The Croatian Government will permit the dispatch of defense aid to Bosnia. [passage omitted]

Sees 'No Obstacle' To Sending Equipment

LD0108111995 Tehran IRNA in English
1112 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, aug. 1, IRNA — Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Tuesday [1 August] stressed that no obstacle exists in the way of dispatch of relief supplies and military equipments by Islamic countries to Bosnia through Croatian territory.

Velayati returned home from Bosnia early this morning at the end of his one-day visit to the republic where he discussed the latest developments with high-ranking Bosnian officials.

Making the remark at a press conference held today, he stressed that the Bosnian people are badly in need of heavy armaments in order to strengthen their position against savage attacks launched by criminal Serbs.

Foreign ministers of the member states of the OIC [Organization of the Islamic Conference] Contact Group in their recent gathering in Geneva announced that they no longer considered themselves obliged to implement the unjust arms embargo imposed on Muslim-populated Bosnia-Herzegovina.

"We have been disappointed with the United Nations and the Security Council to solve the Bosnian crisis," Velayati said hoping that Muslim states and governments willing to carry out justice in the society would put an end to this tragedy.

Velayati further quoted Bosnian authorities as saying that Muslim people in Bosnia cannot resist against the Serb aggressors without help from other Muslim countries.

Outlining the consequences of his trip to Bosnia-Herzegovina, the Iranian foreign minister stressed that the latest developments in that country were among major topics discussed by Bosnian and Croatian officials.

He also underlined that his trip was an indication of Iran's practical support for and solidarity iwth the defenceless Bosnian nation.

Referring to the recent victories in western Bosnia gained with the cooperation of Croats and Muslims, the minister stated that the developments could lessen the pressure exerted by Serbian forces upon the city of Bihac.

He reiterated that practical unity between Muslims and Croats in confronting the Serbian crimes was a turning point over the last four years in the Balkan region.

Commenting on the activities of the international Contact Group, he said, the member states of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) have repeatedly underlined the need to establish unity between the two international and Islamic Contact Groups in order to find a just solution for the critical Bosnian situation.

He voiced Iran's readiness to cooperate with any country and group to establish a just and real peace in that country.

Referring to a proposed meeting of the defence ministers of member states of the Islamic Contact Group, Velayati noted that the OIC foreign ministers had underlined the hold a meeting attended by foreign ministers and chiefs of staff of those countries, but no decision has been taken to determine the date and place of the meeting.

At the end of the press conference, Velayati announced that he had sent a written message to the Moroccan premier and foreign minister, Abdellatif Filali on following up of the recent decisions taken by the Islamic Contact Group this morning. Maghreb is currently the OIC's rotating chairman.

Velayti's message is to be handed over to Filali by the Foreign Ministry's director general for the Middle East and North Africa, Mohammad Kazem Khonsari.

Assembly Urges Rallies Against Serbian 'Crimes'

LD3007083795 Tehran IRNA in English
0613 GMT 30 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 30, IRNA — The World Assembly for Proximity of Islamic Sects has called on the Iranians to stage demonstrations and rallies to condemn crimes committed by the Serbs in the Muslim-populated Bosnia-Herzegovina on August 2.

In a statement the assembly has also called on Muslim people of Iran to urge Islamic governments not to let the echo of monotheism and Islamic values be vanished in that region.

Muslims should not merely trust in international bodies and the so-called human rights advocates, the statement read, adding that while taking diplomatic channels being seriously followed by the Islamic Republic of Iran and some other Islamic states, the Muslim people should organize forces to help oppressed Muslims in Bosnia and throughout the world.

The assembly announced that Iranians can also render their cash and material donations for the Bosnians on the same day.

Students Protest in Tehran Over 'Serb Crimes'

LD0108102495 Tehran IRNA in English
1020 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, Aug 1, IRNA — A large number of university students from throughout the country went on a sit-in in front of the United Nations office in Tehran Tuesday [1 August] as a protest against Serb crimes in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

The students posted placards on the U.N. office walls which carried slogans condemning Serb crimes and the U.N. support for the aggressors.

Ali Zare'i, a spokesman for the students, told IRNA that a statement would be handed over to the U.N. office as an official protest to the silence of the body and its and cooperation with the Serbs. He said all students as well as Bosnian and Croatian ambassadors to Tehran have been invited to participate in the sit-in which is to continue till Wednesday when a public demonstration will be held in Tehran and other cities in support of Bosnian Muslims.

The current week is announced as the solidarity week with defenceless people of Bosnia during which Serb crimes in the war-torn republic will be condemned.

In a statement released by the protestors it was said that the most disasterous human tragedy is going on by criminal Serbs in the heart of Europe, the most painful of all is the deadly silence of the so-called civilized West and its cooperation with the Serbs for the perpetuation of such brutal crimes.

It added that the safe havens of Zepa and Srebrenica have been occupied by the full consent of the U.N. which, the statement stressed, would remain as a stain in its history.

New Resistance Force Commander Appointed

LD2907131595 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1215 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] The Islamic Revolution Guards Commander Major General Mohsen Reza'i appointed Brigadier General Kowsari as commander of Tehran's Basij Resistance Force.

During an induction ceremony, Brigadier General 'Ali Reza Afshar, commander of the Basij Resistance Force, said: Up to now, 186 Ashura battalions, 17 al-Zahra battalions, and 50 Student Mobilization Pioneers' battalions have been set up in Tehran.

Authorities Close Down 'Radical' Islamic Newspaper

NC3107173595 Paris AFP in English 1356 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 31 (AFP) — The Iranian authorities closed a radical weekly newspaper on Monday [31 July] which had become popular for its outspoken criticism of the country's principal leaders. PEYAM-E-DANESHJU (Student's Message), which was close to hardline Islamic groups at Tehran University, was ordered closed by the Culture Ministry for publishing articles "incompatible with the (country's) press law."

It was the second radical newspaper to be banned in the Islamic republic this year after the closure of the JAHAN-E-ISLAM daily in mid-February.

PEYAM has been at the centre of controversy because of its open and bitter criticism of senior politicians, especially President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani.

The paper has reportedly received several anonymous threats and its office was attacked last month by unidentified gunmen. Officials never commented on the incident despite repeated pleas by the weekly for investigation.

PEYAM was also sued by Mohsen Rafiqdust, the influential head of the Foundation for the Deprived, after it published a series of articles on diversion of funds in a state bank, in which Rafiqdust's brother was implicated.

The weekly has even attacked Rafiqdust himself for his "mismanagement" of the multi-billion dollar foundation, which was created after the 1979 Islamic revolution to oversee confiscated properties.

In its final issue last Tuesday, PEYAM questioned the validity of Rafiqdust's reappointment by Iranian leader Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i last week.

The ban is seen as another setback for Iranian radical newspapers, which are among the few to publish independent information, prompting senior officials to launch frequent attacks against them.

New Periodicals Authorized; Student Weekly Banned

LD3107202895 Tehran IRNA in English 2018 GMT 31 May 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] Tehran, July 31, IRNA — The national commission on the print media on Monday [31 July] issued publishing licences for six new periodicals and cancelled the licence of one weekly.

Spokesman of the commission 'Ali Akbar Ash'ari said the new periodicals for which publishing licences have been issued are 'New', 'The Voice of Ardebil', 'The Stars', 'Taliah', the monthly 'Mountain', and the monthly 'Seimology and Seismic Engineering'.

He named the weekly whose licence was cancelled as Payam-e Daneshjou' [as received] (Message of the College Student) and citing the legal code of the press, said the print media should not defame any person real or corporate which principle, he said, the periodical did not heed.

He said bold journalism is one thing and sensational writing is quite another. The latter, he said, contradicts with the principles of Islamic journalism.

He said, unfortunately, defamation had become too habitual with the magazine 'Payam-e Daneshjou' College Student'.

Bank Governor Views New Foreign Exchange Policies

LD3107110795 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] As a result of the implementation of the new foreign exchange policies, the country's level of exports during the first quarter of this year [current Iranian year began 21 March 1995] reached approximately $1 billion, which represents a 5 percent increase over the same period last year.

In an interview, Central Bank Governor Mohsen Nurbakhsh has described the government's new foreign exchange policies as successful, stressing: These policies will be maintained until the end of this year [ending 19 March 1996]. He added: In this way, importers and exporters will be able to plan and carry out their activities with greater confidence.

Comparing the amount of foreign exchange obtained from non-oil exports this year and last year, the governor of the Central Bank said: Last year, the industrial sector earned about $800 million from non-oil exports; whereas from the beginning of this year, until now, the figure has exceeded last year's, and 50 percent of this amount was obtained by the industrial sector during just two months of this year.

Further on Comments by Bank Governor

LD3107122295 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Excerpt] The governor of the Central Bank described the achievements of the government's new foreign exchange policies. You heard a summary of this interview during the news bulletin. We invite you to hear further details given by Mr. Mohsen Nurbakhsh on this issue:

[Begin Nurbakhsh recording] In connection with our foreign currency situation, last year [21 March 1994-20 March 1995, oil and gas exports amounted to approximately $14.6 billion, to which non- oil exports have to be added, of course. The level of our imports was about $12.6 billion and, altogether, we had a positive balance of payments of over $2 to $3 billion.

With this level of imports, the growth of gross domestic product — without oil — last year, was about 5.2 percent. This shows that in spite of the fact that the level of imports has fallen, gross domestic product has been able to grow without depending on oil revenues. This demonstrates the new capabilities the country has acquired and we shall doubtless also benefit from this growth in the course of the current year [ending 20 March 1996].

As far as this year is concerned, bearing in mind the adoption of new foreign currency policies, our exports in the first quarter of the year amounted to approximately $1 billion. This shows a growth of about 5 percent when compared with the same quarter last year.

The level of guarantees given by people to the banks in connection with the return of foreign currency was close to $1.92 billion up to 6 July. A period of three to six months are allowed for the return of the foreign currency from the date that the guarantee is taken by the bank. Yet in spite of the fact that this period of grace has now expired, more than $100 million has been sold to the banks in the course of this period. This demonstrates that both export trends are following their natural course and that the amount that has been taken as guarantee from the exporter is returning to the banking system.

Therefore, the new foreign currency policies adopted could be said to have been successful and we shall definitely continue these policies, both in connection with the rate of exchange — decided by the government — and also in connection with the link between the exporter and the banks, and the provision of the importers' needs. These are acceptable policies which we shall undoubtedly continue to implement until the end of the current year. So there is neither a need to change the rate of exchange nor other conditions.

Therefore, regarding the reassurances needed by exporters and importers before they take their decisions, I give them this reassurance: that they can continue their economic activities on the basis of these very same policies.

Regarding the provision of import needs, I should mention that during last year, the income gained from non-oil exports by our industries in total, was around $800 million, more or less, while in the current year, this figure is infinitely more. Our performance for two months is approximately 50 percent more than the figure which industry was able to obtain from non-oil exports last year. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Pakistan

Bhutto on Democracy, 'Two-Nation Theory'

BK2907115095 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 29 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto has said that her government believes in parliamentary democracy, where everyone has the right to dissent. In an interview with the daily BAKHTAWAR, she said the objective of commencing a dialogue with the Muhajir Qaumi Movement-Altaf group is to bring back normalcy to Karachi, to prevent the Altaf group from professing the politics of bloodshed, and to put them on the path of the national mainstream. She said Karachi is troubled by a situation of lawlessness and this situation can only be corrected with the cooperation of the people and by taking action against terrorists. Benazir Bhutto said no conspiracy to divide Sindh and to harm the integrity of the country will succeed. She regretted that in his interview with INDIA TODAY, Altaf Hussain had talked about a confederation and termed the two-nation theory ridiculous.

MQM's Altaf Hussain Urges End to 'Genocide'

BK3007125895 Islamabad THE NATION in English 30 Jul 95 p 14

[FBIS Transcribed Text] London (PPI) — Altaf Hussain, founder of MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement] has issued a warning to the government urging it to immediately stop "genocide of the Muhajirs, alternatively they would be forced under the prevailing circumstances, to adopt every possible measures for their own safety and security and survival of their future generation".

Altaf Hussain, now in self exile in London in his unusually strong statement said, "The shooting down of six innocent MQM workers and supporters in Pak Colony on Thursday [27 July] by the Haqiqi terrorists under the cover of state forces, confirmed beyond any doubt that the PPP [Pakistan People's Party] and parochial elements in the government have taken a decision to vanquish the Muhajir community through systematic process of killing and atrocities". "The acts of all types of atrocities against Muhajirs have now crossed all levels of their patience", he added.

The British Prime Minister, John Major has already termed Altaf Hussain as "genuine politician". He told British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC) in his comment about political asylum that Altaf Hussain has "done nothing in defiance of the British law".

The British foreign office also held the same opinion and rejected Pakistan Government request to send him back to Pakistan. The BBC further quoted Foreign Office saying they have not received any written request from Pakistan in this connection.

Altaf Hussain's statement which was faxed to newspaper in Karachi said, "Individual or collective massacre of Muhajirs in Karachi, Hyderabad and rest of the urban areas of Sindh, is repetition of the darkest tyrannical acts of the present regime".

The MQM chief alleged that those who are taking credit of conquering the Khajji Football Ground with heavy armaments do not dare to conduct raids and recover the sophisticated weapons dumped at the bases of Haqiqi terrorists".

He said "It is criminal negligence on the part of those who have taken over the responsibilities of restoring law and order in Karachi". He demanded that murder charge should be framed against all those persons involved in naked assassination without any discrimination, including the person in command of this grand operation".

Talks Continue Between Government, Altaf Group

Minister Said 'Still Optomistic'

BK3107112595 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The Altaf Group team did not turn up to resume talks with the government as scheduled today at the Parliament House in Islamabad on normalizing situation in Karachi. The government team led by the federal law minister, Professor N.D. Khan, waited for them in accordance with the schedule and venue for negotiations as agreed between the two sides during the fourth round of their parleys in Karachi on Monday [24 July] last.

Talking to newsmen on this occasion, the law minister said he was still optimistic about the resumption of talks between the government and Altaf Group. He said the government sincerely believes in finding a political solution to the Karachi problem and for this the Altaf Group would have to play its due part. The law minister did not agree with a questioner that it was a deadlock and said he would rather like to call it a delay. He expressed the confidence that Altaf Group would realize the significance of finding a negotiated settlement of the Karachi problem. He regretted the attitude of Altaf Group and hoped that they would return to the negotiating table in the larger national interest to play their due role for normalization of the situation in Karachi. To a question, he made it clear that the government is alert and vigilant to deal with any situation after failure of the Altaf Group team to resume dialogue. He, however, held out an assurance that the attitude of the government is still flexible and it would be ready to entering an agreement with Altaf Group on the basis of give-and-take. Prof. N.D. Khan ruled out the possibility of associating any mediator or arbitrator for conducting talks between the two sides and said this has also been the position of Altaf Group.

Minister Urges Altaf Group To Return

BK0108090795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 0800 GMT 1 Aug 95

[FBIS Transcribed Text] The law minister, Mr. N.D. Khan, has said the government is ready to discuss all issues with Altaf Group in a democratic spirit to help restore peace in Karachi.

Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, he said both government and the Altaf Group agree to the fundamental point that joint efforts must be made to bring peace and order in Karachi. He asked opinion leaders, writers, and intellectuals to persuade the Altaf Group negotiating team to return to the dialogue. The government is ready to discuss all problems and its stance has been flexible.

Asked to comment on the demand of the Altaf Group that they may be called MQM [Muhajir Qaumi Movement], the law minister said the matter can be resolved at the negotiating table.

UN Team To Bring Up Kashmir Rights Violations

BK3107114795 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 31 Jul 95

[FBIS Translated Text] Pakistan will raise the issue of massive human rights violations in occupied Kashmir forcefully at the session of the UN Human Rights Commission's Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities opening in Geneva today.

This was stated by Senator Iqbal Haider, the leader of the Pakistani delegation to the session, before his departure for Geneva. He said his delegation will strongly counter moves by certain quarters which are trying to malign Pakistan on account of child and bonded labor.

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